

BLS Remembers Joan Duran

BY MARIA WEISSMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

Though the actual combat is over 6,000 miles away, the impact of the war in Iraq recently hit home for members of the Boston Latin School community. Joan Duran, a member of the Class of 2002 and 82nd Airborne Division, was killed on August 10, 2007 when a bomb exploded during a supply delivery in Baquba, Iraq.

Duran made a positive impression on all who knew him. A compassionate, hard-working and brave individual, he encompassed all the ideals of a hero—it's no coincidence that his nickname was "Superman."

Many spend their high school careers growing into the person they wish to be. Duran was one of few who already was. Quiet and funny, his uplifting and caring personality set him apart during the stressful years at Latin School. His classmates also recognized him as a talented athlete. In addition to his football and track skills, he was, perhaps, even more admired for his inexhaustible drive to help his teammates and was always one to lend a hand.

Omar Butcher ('03), a friend and former teammate of Duran, remembered his unassuming kindness: "I played football with Joan and he was just a quiet leader. Not a rah-rah kind of guy, but [he] led by playing hard and going full speed all the time. He would always try to help other, less experienced players." Dan Weissman

('03), another friend and former teammate, added that "he had the ability to jump over your head and catch the ball, to completely burn you on the field. But

School, Duran joined the army. He was sent to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina to help the victims as part of the relief effort, where he exhibited the same

possibly imagine." While serving in Iraq, his personality continued to encourage those around him. "He always tried to help people for the sake of helping out," Weissman explained. "I'm sure that he was doing just this with the 82nd Airborne in Iraq: helping out the good people around him, American and Iraqi, with the same can-do attitude as his days on the Wolf-pack."

Duran's plans of becoming a math teacher and marrying his fiancée, Andrea Silva, were not to be. His funeral at the Seventh Day Adventist Spanish Church of Boston in Dorchester took place on August 19, 2007. Over 150 people attended, a testament to the large numbers who were touched by this natural leader's thoughtfulness. He was awarded a posthumous bronze star and an army commendation medal for his outstanding work.

Duran's death is a tremendous loss to the Boston Latin School community. While extraordinarily gifted, he was also unabashedly modest—fierce on the field, yet kind to his fellows. Duran's friendly demeanor, determined spirit and selfless altruism rendered him a true hero and an example for all. "He seemed to model his actions after his favorite superhero, Superman: always the first to volunteer a helping hand with a polite smile and a humble attitude," Weissman reminisced.

Duran's spirit will continue to inspire members of the Latin community. In the words of a close friend: "The world needs more people like Joan Duran."



JOAN DURAN (RIGHT), CLASS OF 2002, DIED ON AUG. 10 WHILE SERVING IN IRAQ

after he [made] you look silly trying to cover him, he would come back to you and say 'nice try, you almost had me' with a smile, then make a suggestion as to how to improve your skills against him for the next time." This friendly team spirit made him one of the most respected athletes and students in the BLS community.

Upon his graduation from Latin

charisma that gained him such admiration in high school. His commanding officer, Capt. John Carson, remembered his helpful compassion: "He had a very important job—he was in charge of making sure families were able to get food, water and shelter. His heart didn't come from his uniform... he was raised that way and his heart touched more people than you can

Future with Ms. Mooney Teta

BY JACOB MEISTER, II
& JOSH MASCOOP, I
STAFF WRITERS

Head Master. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Mooney Teta was the Assistant Principal at Needham High School.

During her tenure as Assistant Head

Master, Ms. Mooney Teta was responsible for the scheduling, attendance waivers and supervision and evaluation of teachers. In addition, she was Co-Chair of the Communications Subcommittee of the School Site Council, which focused on keeping parents updated on activities, events and other important information.

Undoubtedly, Ms. Mooney Teta



HEAD MASTER MOONEY TETA

MOVING FORWARD
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Crackdown on Discipline

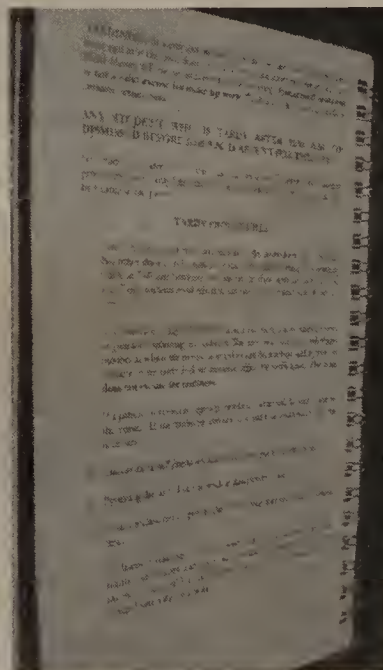
BY MORGON BANKS, I
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

detention and could also serve two detentions in one day. Furthermore, reminders were sent to students during homeroom if they failed to attend detention on the assigned day.

Since taking on the new role of Assistant Head Master, Ms. Montes began to reinforce existing rules regarding tardy procedures. Students are now expected to arrive on time at 7 a.m. for tardy detention and may only serve one detention per day. Moreover, they are responsible for checking the lists posted outside administrative offices for counts of their

Beginning this year, the administration has increased efforts to enforce the disciplinary codes. Even though Boston Latin School has always had a code of conduct as outlined in the agenda book, the implementation of some of these rules has been lax in the past. Late arrival to tardy detentions and food and drink outside the cafeteria, most notably, will no longer be tolerated.

Ms. Alexandra Montes, who replaced Mr. Richard Fulton as Assistant Head Master, is now in charge of tardies. Prior to her appointment, students were allowed to arrive late—within reason—to tardy



THE CODE

DISCIPLINE
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Global News Tidbits

>>>A Texas man was charged with first-degree murder for stabbing his roommate. Allegedly, the accused pulled out a knife and murdered the victim after being informed that he had "stinky feet." Both men had been drinking. (AP)

>>>Who says that you can't get away with illegal driving? An 11-year-old boy in

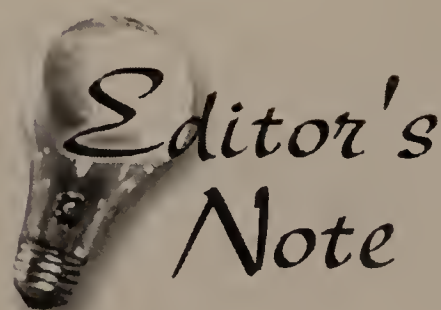
New Orleans drove home by himself after dropping off his handicapped father at a hospital. State troopers chased the vehicle, which was traveling at over 80 mph on the interstate, until it finally stopped in the parking lot of the Burger King where the boy's mother worked. The only charges filed are against the parents, who are accused of inadequate supervision. (AP)

>>>High school students in Fargo, North Dakota tried to break the world record for the largest Twister game board. The record, which is currently held by the Dutch at 2,453 square feet, won't be official until Guinness World Records verifies the results. (AP)

>>>A brain in a bag was found near an apartment complex close to Richmond, Virginia. The state medical examiner was

called to examine the brain, as police were uncertain whether it belonged to a human or another animal. Police are still waiting for the results. (AP)

>>>Upon closer examination of a package from Peru that contained what seemed to be insects, Dutch customs found 100 dead beetles stuffed with cocaine. Each beetle was filled with 300 grams of cocaine, valued at \$11,270 in total. (Reuters)



Your parents may complain that reading the *Argo* takes time away from your studies and your teacher may complain that when you do one of our sudokus during a lecture on the War of 1812, you are taking time away from his lesson plan. While we do not condone interrupting your Boston Latin School education with a sudoku, we do nevertheless feel that these adults are misjudging the *Argo* and its value. What these narrow-minded grown-ups fail to realize is that reading the *Argo* is essential to any well-rounded brain.

The News section keeps you up to date on what's going on in the world

MOVING FORWARD

Continued from page 1

will draw from her past experiences as Assistant Head Master as well as those of a former Latin School student now that she is Head Master. To remain connected with the student body and understand classroom dynamics, Ms. Mooney Teta often sits in on classes. "It is important to keep on experiencing the learning taking place in the classroom," she said. "I hope to always remember what it's like to be a student."

In addition, one of her primary goals is to bridge the gap between students and the headmaster. In the

DISCIPLINE

Continued from page 1

accumulated detentions.

"The [reminder] slips were ineffective. If kids are tardy, especially more than once, you usually can't find them in home-room anyway," Ms. Montes explained. The new disciplinary regime places the responsibility of organization and time management on the student.

Despite negative student response, this rigid regulation presented positive results. For example, computerized records have made the tardy regime much more organized.

"Upperclassmen especially are less likely to be tardy as they are aware of the

and what people are gossiping about at BLS. Forum encourages you to question everything and teaches you to formulate your own opinions. A&E is your source for culture and is always good for a hearty laugh. Our crossword puzzles and sudokus equip you with the intellectual sharpness key to academic success. The Sports section is crucial to fine-tuning your social skills. After all, there's no better way to transition an awkward conversation than to drop the old-"how-about-those-red-sox"-line. And lastly, the new Business and Technology section educates you on the art of money-making, which is a major part of that "rewarding life" in the BLS Mission Statement. So next time your teacher tries to berate you for reading the *Argo*, politely inform him that the *Argo* is not only preparing you for success in his class but also for success in the real world. The *Argo* in effect functions as a guide on your way to fulfilling the precepts of the Mission Statement.

So enjoy the first issue of the *Argo* of the 2007-2008 school year. Six issues from now, the members of the class of

past, students have been reluctant to approach members of the administration. By being an accessible and understanding headmaster, Ms. Mooney Teta hopes that students will feel more comfortable sharing important issues with her personally.

Ms. Mooney Teta firmly believes in the Latin School's mission statement, "a mission that has been 373 years in the making." She looks forward to reinforcing the goals it outlines with novel approaches.

One of Ms. Mooney Teta's overarching aims is to create a more supportive environment at Latin School, an idea that she voiced at the opening

consequences," said Ms. Montes. In addition to the revised tardy system, food and drinks outside the dining hall will no longer be permitted. "Spilled drinks and food crumbs may cause the infestation of rodents," said Mr. Malcolm Flynn.

Some students, however, have complained that this regulation is inconsistent.

"I guess you could say the intentions are good, [but] if they're afraid of us spilling drinks and attracting rodents, what makes them think that teachers can't spill drinks and drop food on the floor?" asked Lauren Chin (I).

"It's just ironic [*sic*] how the teachers can be sitting there with a cup of coffee

2008 will be receiving their diplomas and all other students will be looking forward to their next year at BLS. The time will pass quickly between now and June, but meanwhile we encourage all of you to partake in this illustrious institution, the *Argo*. This year there are more ways than ever to do so.

Forum now offers a chance for readers to give brief (150-300 words) responses to any recently published articles. The Arts and Entertainment section will run an advice column, providing answers to the queries of the BLS community. In addition, The *Argo* is always looking for new staff members and writers, so show up at one of our weekly after-school meetings, on Tuesdays in room 114 if you want to get involved. Although our pizza rations become smaller and smaller as the *Argo* staff list increases, this is a minor sacrifice in the course of producing a superior paper.

-Andrew Klein and Alexander Zhu
Editors-in-Chief

assemblies. First of all, Ms. Mooney Teta wishes to promote mutual respect between all members of the school community. In addition, she hopes that students will help one another to optimize their high school experience and support each another through stressful times.

Since assuming the headmaster position early last July, Ms. Mooney Teta has brought new mindset of vigor and dedication to the office. In her own words: "We, teachers, administrators and guidance counselors, are here for our students. If we lose perspective, then we've lost the mission of our school."

in their hands and tell you to throw yours away," said another student, who wishes to remain anonymous.

These changes are not new protocols, however. They are old rules under stricter regulation. "The rules used to be enforced in certain parts of the building, but now our policies will be applied throughout the entire school," said Mr. Flynn.

While this new system may seem unreasonable now, many believe that tolerating these rules will simply be a matter of adjustment. In the words of Shu-Yi Zhou (II): "It's just adjusting to these rules that people find difficult. After a while, people will become used to them and won't complain anymore."

Boston Latin School *Argo*
2007-2008 Academic Year

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The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place
New England
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Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in News Writing

NEWS

New Teachers

BY YUKUN LI, II
& CYNTHIA WU, II

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

New faculty not written about below: Dustin Brownell (Classics), Brett Games (Classics), Helena Jeny (Classics), Kate Markiewicz (Science) and Elizabeth McCoy (Assistant Headmaster)



Ms. Jennifer Sheehan

A former student of Ms. Kathleen Trainor at Boston Latin Academy, Ms. Sheehan started learning other Romance languages because of her passion for Latin. Now a German and Spanish teacher at Latin School, she feels that "it's a privilege to be here." Ms. Sheehan trained athletes as a softball coach prior to Boston Latin—an experience that inspired her to start teaching high school students. Her love for city life, moreover, prompted her to move into metropolitan Boston from the suburbs. When asked about what she has learned at Boston Latin thus far, Ms. Sheehan replied, "I've learned the way a school should really function."



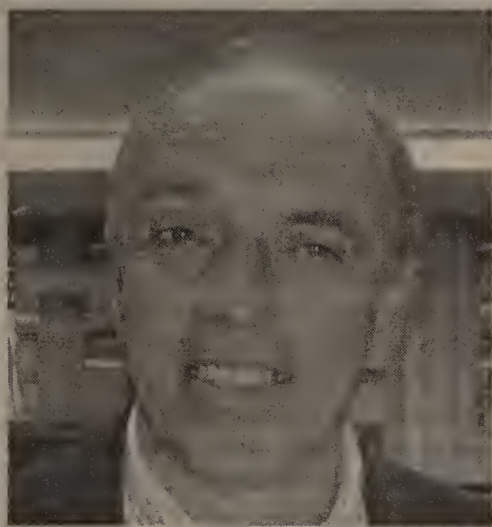
Ms. Caroline Occéan

Ms. Occéan, a graduate of Simmons College, majored in public relations and planned to step into the realm of the fashion. During her last year at Simmons, however, an English internship allowed her to taste the joys of teaching and led her to the belief that teaching is a much better way to contribute to society. An extremely accomplished track runner, Ms. Occéan is a member of the Greater Boston Track Club. She can run a mile at the astounding speed of less than five minutes. From her experience in life and at Boston Latin, she believes that one should "never be afraid to ask."



Ms. Kathleen Markiewicz

Having coached the Boston Latin Science Olympiad team for two years prior to becoming a Chemistry and Physics teacher here, Ms. Markiewicz is a talented equestrian as well as a master of the popular video game Dance Dance Revolution. A graduate of UMass and Kalamazoo College, this multi-talented teacher got her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry. Ms. Markiewicz also loves to read; in fact, she reads almost everything that has print on it. Ms. Markiewicz previously taught at Fenway High School and has loved teaching ever since she started peer-tutoring in high school. Her mantra? "Being organized is key."



Mr. Joseph Ureneck

Mr. Ureneck was one step ahead of the gang when he started learning Chinese in high school. Since Chinese has become such an important language today, this move paid off. With over 150 students enrolled in his Chinese 2, Chinese 3 and Comprehensive Chinese courses, Mr. Ureneck thrives in the positive environment at Boston Latin. Like most teachers, however, he finds the paperwork less enjoyable. He is also disappointed that the Chinese language does not have a more popular appeal among non-Asian students. "I would like to see a lot more people of non-Asian ancestry take Chinese," he said.



Ms. Celia Lucia Sweeney

A native of Virginia, Ms. Sweeney has always loved school. She joined Boston Latin this year as a World History, American Government and Politics and AP American Government teacher. Like many of the other new teachers, Ms. Sweeney changes classrooms throughout the day. Though still adjusting to the fast-paced environment, she comments that Boston Latin is "a very efficient place" and appreciates meeting so many great students and teachers. Lilly Zhao (I), one of her American Government and Politics students, said that Ms. Sweeney "is really informed of current news. We read *The Boston Globe* almost every day, which she brings into class. Ms. Sweeney is really enthusiastic about political science and the government, and I find it most rewarding to be able to keep up with news in every area."



Ms. Keri Orellana

Despite having to adjust to vestiges of Latin School's classical tradition such as the terms "master" and "declamation," Ms. Orellana finds her new teaching experience at Boston Latin immensely pleasurable. Trained as a professional basketball player during college, Ms. Orellana was eventually influenced by her mother to choose a teaching career. Currently a seventh grade English and Enrichment teacher, Ms. Orellana believes that it is essential for "kids to challenge the teacher" when sharing their thoughts and ideas.



Mr. Jeffrey Gibbons

A few months into his job at a mortgage company, Mr. Gibbons knew that the cubicle was not for him. This varsity wrestling team coach had an epiphany during his stay in the little mortgage company booth, and instinct led him to teaching. Mr. Gibbons is a brilliant English teacher, but he is also a brilliant physical specimen. He keeps up his good shape by exercising regularly. Able to bench up to 230 lbs, he says that he is more of "a fitness guy" than "a big team sports kind of person." What this athletic English teacher loves most about Boston Latin is being able to see a friendly face wherever he goes.



Ms. Sarah Lau

A new pre-algebra teacher for sixties, Ms. Sarah Lau came to Boston two years ago from Singapore. A graduate of Nanyang Technological University, Ms. Lau previously worked at the Murphy School in Dorchester as a student teacher. Teaching at BLS is a new experience for her. She is impressed with the vast resources the library has to offer as well as the availability of the computers for students.



Mr. David Long

Students at Boston Latin might recognize Mr. Long as the husband of English teacher Ms. Molly McDonald. In fact, Mr. Long has recently joined the Boston Latin community as one of the many new U.S. and World History teachers. Though currently without a permanent classroom, Mr. Long brings his enthusiasm and passion for teaching to every class. When asked about his hobbies, Mr. Long said he enjoys doing yoga and taking care of his son.



Ms. Elena Fobert

Ms. Fobert has a passion for teaching. "Experiencing teaching led me to teach more often and I love it," she says. When she is not teaching Physics here, this Northeastern and Boston University graduate can be found whipping up a classical French entrée. During her experience at the culinary school of BU, Ms. Fobert was taught by some of the top chefs in the world. She majored in psychology and, from her experience, advises students to "Be yourself. Don't do what everybody else does. Do what's comfortable for you."



Mr. Joseph Concannon

Mr. Concannon is what the majority of people would call an "exceptionally well-rounded scholar." He has done extensive studies in humanities, history, literature—the list is simply too long to write. It was Mr. Concannon's love for teaching that brought him here. He wants to pass down his knowledge to young students by teaching English. Mr. Concannon is not the kind of person who just reads books all day long. He also enjoys the occasional adrenaline rush while mountain biking in Maine, among other places.

NEWS

Senior Class Officers

Depicted from Left to Right:

Andrew Lawrence

Morgon Banks



NEWLY ELECTED CLASS OFFICERS POSE IN FRONT OF THE ALMA MATER STATUE

Galen Macdonald

James Fitzpatrick

President

Galen Macdonald

Hey guys! I want to say, first, that I am honored to represent our class as president. Thank you to all those who voted for me, and for those who did not, I hope that we can still work together productively. As you all know, I have some goals that are unlikely (not impossible though!). Let's act as responsibly as possible to ensure that we put our best foot forward. I hope that together we can prove to Ms. Lynne Mooney Teta and Mr. Malcolm Flynn and the other Assistant Head Masters that we have the maturity to handle any privileges they might consider giving us.

I'm writing this in between Econ homework and college stuff, and I'm sure many of you are in the same situation. It's hard work, huh. I know we all have a lot to do, especially in the next month or two, but this is also vital time to start fundraising, and that means the sooner we get our ideas out there, the better. So anyone with ideas, please let me, Andrew, Morgon or, if worst comes to worst, Jamie (just kidding), know. You can catch me after school,

send me a Facebook message, whatever. I tried to friend everyone in our class, but Facebook decided I was being a creep and blocked me from friending anyone else for a while. If I'm not friends with you yet, just friend me. I will be starting my office hour, probably on Wednesdays. I look forward to seeing you all there.

So, this is supposed to be 500 words, and so far it's around 300. (If you just went back to count the words, there are better ways to spend your time.) This is a problem, because I really only have one more thing to say, and that is that the year is now in full swing—elections are over, our last term one is drawing to a close (hallelujah) and college deadlines are closing in. I have already started my work as president, but there is always more work to do. Anyone who wants to help is welcomed, and I am open to all ideas. I'll have a lot more information for all of you in the next couple weeks, I'm sure. The work is just beginning to really start. Class of '08 RULES!

Vice President

Andrew Lawrence

Hi everyone! Who's ready for the best year of our high school careers? I definitely know I am, and I'm ready to work for all of you to ensure that this will be the best year of your long Boston Latin School lives.

I'm Andrew Lawrence and I really am honored to represent the class as your vice president. I want to thank everyone who voted for me; I couldn't have done it without you guys. I also want to congratulate all the other candidates who made it so far in the elections and I want to reiterate the message from Ms. Mooney Teta that our class is not led by four people; we are a collaboration of every single person in the grade, and that your leadership is always welcomed and appreciated.

I know that I speak for myself and the rest of your class officers when I say that our main goal is to make sure that we all have the best senior year possible. We have a lot of good ideas for the class and are ready to listen to your ideas, suggestions and opinions on how we can make this a great year. We are here to represent what you want and we are ready to represent to the administration what the class wants.

After being here for either four or six or seven years, we must understand that this really isn't the end of our Boston

Latin School career and that, in many ways, it is the beginning. After graduation, we will spread out all over the world, every single one of us representing Boston Latin School. This is a connection that we will always share, no matter what happens, that we will always be members of the Boston Latin School Class of 2008.

My promise to our class is that I will do my best to put forth all of your ideas and work with the administration so that we can achieve our goals. In the past, I believed that there was a lack of communication between members of the class and the administration. This is something that needs to end, and I plan on bridging this gap. We have been blessed to graduate under the first year of a very different administration and we, the class officers, are willing to work with the administration to make the school a better place for all students and this the best year for all of the seniors.

One of my personal goals for the class is that we create stronger bonds and that we try to bring down all the barriers that separate us into different cliques and groups. I hope that we can create a sense of unity among our class and that we can carry this unity into the future and forge the legacy of the great Boston Latin School Class of 2008.

Secretary

James Fitzpatrick

Hey, guys. You know it's even easier to write this than a speech. I don't even have the luxury of being able to do this extemporaneously, but I'll try. First off, I'd like to thank those of you who voted for me. And for those of you who didn't, that's understandable; Lauren is an awesome girl. Regardless of whom you voted for, I'm already doing my best to make sure that all of you seniors and any other students who take interest in what the secretary does will be pleased to have me for the job. Fundamentally, as secretary (one of only two males secretaries since the 1970s by Mr. Keitt's estimation) or any elected class officer, our priority is to serve our class. In case you zoned out during my speech, the major way I plan to serve our class is to relay information between many different groups of people here at school. As a result, I'm going to be exposed to a vast amount of school information. So, please, if you ever have any questions about anything, feel free to ask. Odds are even if I don't know

the answer, I'll be able to find one for you quickly.

I'm not going to be cliché and say that we, your class officers, are going to make this the best year ever in the history of Boston Latin School, that we'll all be BFFs by June or that soon enough rainbows and unicorns will be common sights in our hallways. What I do want to say is that you guys elected us to be class officers, so use us to your full advantage. If you ever have anything you'd like to suggest, whether for prom or just a fundraiser, if you ever have any (school-related) questions or you just need a friend, come to us; we're here for your benefit. I want to make sure that no one ever has trouble doing any of those things. Well, I guess that's really all I have to say. The only thing I haven't discussed is that as Secretary I have to write stuff down. So, let this serve as an example of how I write. And now that's really all I have to say. Let's make this the best year ever!

Treasurer

Morgon Banks

I still can't believe it's finally our senior year. It seems like just yesterday that I came to Boston from Montreal and found myself a B-sie at the Latin School. I remember feeling completely overwhelmed. If you knew me back then, you would probably remember me as the very quiet girl in the back of the class. With considerable help, I gradually learned the ropes of BLS and came to love it. Our class is full of amazing, talented and kind people, and it's been great spending the past three years with you, and I look forward to representing you as Senior Class Treasurer.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me during the elections—I appreciate the support more than you'll ever know. For those of you who didn't, I hope I can still fulfill your expectations as Treasurer and make this year a memorable one. We've all been waiting long enough for this year to come!

While senior year promises to be an amazing year, we've all got a lot of work ahead of us with seemingly endless college applications, scholarship searches and financial aid forms. But there are also a lot of events to look forward to, from prom to graduation to finally getting those acceptance letters.

in the mail. While I don't have control over where you'll go to college, I can help to ensure that we have the funding for the events that make senior year so special.

Besides working on fundraisers and managing money, I'll be more than happy to help you with homework, activities or anything else, for that matter. I'm here to help. After all, it's because of *you* that I am here.

I also encourage everyone in our grade to become more involved. The events we will be planning will require the work of many more than just the four elected officers. Class unity is essential to make these events a reality. So whether you have an amazing fundraising idea, want to help sell shirts or just have a suggestion of how to make our time here more enjoyable, let us know! Any help will be greatly appreciated.

I have high hopes for this year and I hope that all of you have a memorable and fantastic senior year. While I can't promise that I will be the perfect treasurer, I can promise that I will do everything I can to make sure our senior year was worth the wait. Thanks again to everyone, and enjoy our last days of high school! We've finally made it. We're Seniors!

FORUM

Should Educational Institutions Moderate Speech and Expression?

PRO



By **JOE CALLAHAN, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Among the liberties established in the Bill of Rights is that "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech." Without such a right, we might fear repercussions from the government for airing our ideas and opinions in public. On a college campus, or that of any institution, Boston Latin School included, should freedom of speech be restricted for the sake of decency? The answer is sometimes — only when the manner of debate might undermine the credibility of the argument. Certain guidelines must be followed to keep the discussion valid. Andrew Meyer, most commonly known as the "Don't tase me bro" guy, completely disregarded this guideline at the University of Florida's lecture hall where Senator Kerry was addressing the students. Meyer was given a set amount of time to ask a question of Senator Kerry, but after his allotted time ended, he had only just begun his publicity stunt. After asking Kerry a question and making a reference to former President Clinton's sex scandal, campus police tried quietly to remove Meyer from the auditorium. From there things went downhill, ending in Meyer's tasing for being too unruly.

Recently in New York, Lee Bollinger, the President of Columbia University, invited Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak to and debate with Columbia's students and faculty. In addition to citizens and politicians, many students in the U.S., myself included, are strongly against allowing Ahmadinejad to address the American public. Even though he is a notorious figure, despised by the Western world, Bollinger had no right to disrespect him during his introduction to the debate. He outright attacked Ahmadinejad about issues concerning the release of Iranian Americans who were imprisoned by his country's government, reported that the Iranian government leads the world in the execution of minors and produced other figures regarding government atrocities. Then, Bollinger pulled out the big guns. After questioning the Iranian President's call for the destruction of Israel, he asked of President Ahmadinejad, "My question then is, do you plan on wiping us off the map too?"

I thought that introductions were meant to introduce speakers and give the audience an idea of context and relevance, but apparently I was wrong: Bollinger verbally insulted President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. I am not trying to argue on behalf of Ahmadinejad. I do not believe that he deserves it. Rather, I am rather trying to point out the fact that when speakers are free to say whatever they want, then the result can sometimes be shocking and offensive.

There is little or no reason to bill debates as "academic" when one, or in this case, both of the parties involved act belligerently or are overtly hostile toward each other. Granted, at some points in the debate, one side may wish to push a specific issue in order to solicit a real answer. If throughout the entire debate, however, the debaters deliver insult upon insult to each other, then the entire event is not worth having. An educational debate should be held to exhibit international cooperation, showcase public discourse and at the very least, follow the conventions of manners and courtesy. At these debates, audiences are trying to better understand others' beliefs and views so they don't seem so foreign. It only takes one person to ruin this experience for everyone: someone like Andrew Meyer.

Debates that are moderated and held in educational environments should be fair to all parties. I think that this unwritten code of debate ethics, where respect is foremost, should be honored in every forum. People should discuss the facts, not focus on impassioned personal expressions. This will not necessarily infringe on individuals' freedom of speech. If there are acknowledged rules that everyone abides by then all will be well and no controversies will arise. As long as respect is a key component of debate, I believe that there will be no need to question whether freedom of speech has been violated. Even better, discourse can continue without cause for controversy.

CON

By **WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Picture this: On the first day of school, your teacher tells you he's going to assign three hours of homework nightly, because he thinks his class is the only one that matters. Naturally, you correct him on this, and suddenly police officers rush in. You are pinned to the ground, tasered twice, and then placed under arrest. Sounds crazy, right?

Of course, this didn't actually happen to you. But a somewhat similar event did happen in September at the University of Florida, where a student, Andrew Meyer, attempted to ask Senator John Kerry about why he conceded the 2004 election, and then digressed into a possible impeachment of President Bush and the involvement of both politicians in a secret society while at Yale. The student was grabbed by the University police, dragged through the hall while shouting, "Don't tase me, bro! Is anyone watching this?" and electroshocked when he continued to resist. According to an eyewitness, "[the cops] were physically tugging on his shirt, pulling at him, yelling at him, and I don't understand how anyone could get a formulated thought out when they're being physically accosted and yelled at."

While Kerry said, "Let me answer his question," the cops paid no attention and continued to drag Meyer, eventually piling on top of him at the back of the hall. Though Meyer far exceeded the time allotted and used coarse language, the police's reaction was completely disproportionate to Meyer's "crime."

The most shocking (no pun intended) part was the Senator's inaction. Kerry appears to be incredibly ineffectual. He stands there, repeating, "Can I answer his question, it's an important question," while a citizen is the victim of police brutality.

When an elected official, who is supposed to be an advocate for the people, plays the role of bystander as someone is being tased for asking a question in a public forum, it just goes to show how our democracy is in far worse shape than we at first believed.

At least other people can represent their constituency on stage worse than Senator Kerry. A week after the electric incident, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad came to speak at Columbia University. The institution was criticized around the country for extending the invitation; Ahmadinejad, a senior official in a repressive and brutal regime previously stated his opinion that Israel should be wiped off the map and questioned the existence of the Holocaust. Perhaps attempting to deflect criticism, Columbia's President Lee Bollinger introduced the guest speaker by calling him a "petty and cruel dictator" among other bold criticisms. Bollinger's denunciations aside, Ahmadinejad's visit disproves those who believe that unpopular figures shouldn't be allowed to speak at universities. Ahmadinejad is used to speaking in the repressive Iranian state, where citizens would never dare to ask questions like those he faced from Columbia's students and faculty. For instance, he was asked why homosexuals are persecuted in Iran, and seemed quite flustered. Ahmadinejad eventually responded to the unexpected question by saying that "there are no homosexuals in Iran," which drew laughter from the audience, knowing it was a flagrant lie.

Some people may assert that granting forums to fringe scholars, conspiracy theorists and Holocaust deniers is as good as giving them a platform of legitimacy. But the reality is nearly the opposite. In Meyer's case, by denying him a forum, the police drew tremendous condemnation for censorship and excessive violence, and Kerry took heat for not taking action. In Ahmadinejad's case, the president was taken to task on many of his more ridiculous assertions in a way that he could not have been otherwise.

In both situations, some of what Meyer and Ahmadinejad had said made sense. Why hasn't Bush been impeached for lying to the American people, and why, for instance, is the Holocaust cited as a reason for the Palestinian territories to be partitioned? These "important questions" (as Kerry might say) might have never been considered to the same degree without the edgy circumstances that brought them media focus.

Ultimately, we have very little to lose by extending free speech and much to gain by increasing the discussion of important issues.

Forum
Question

Should educational institutions moderate speech and expression?



"No, people should have the right to express themselves. This might not agree with what other think, but that shouldn't stop them."

—Jennifer Gao, I



"No, people should be able to express their opinion. Others have the mind to decide whether they agree or disagree."

—Vincent Duong, II



"No, they should be able to put their feelings out in the open if, and only if it is for some academic purpose, not to insult any one."

—Mehraj Awal, III



"Yes, academic places, such as at school, are meant for educational purposes. If you have nothing good to say, say nothing at all."

—Kerry Hu, IV



"No, people should be allowed to express themselves at school because it shows who you are."

—Natalie Nowel, V



"Yes, because it could have hurt peoples' feelings and upset others."

—Ayo Edebiri, VI

FORUM

Cheating is Defeating Honor Code

BY QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, II
STAFF WRITER

Think back to the last time you cheated. Was it last year? Last week? Last period? Now think back to your opening assembly where you mouthed the Honor Code along with Head Master Lynne Mooney Teta, various administrators and the rest of your class.

Guess it didn't do much, huh?

Only 79 out of 277 students from all six grades polled in homeroom thought that taking the pledge made any difference at all. Those aren't very inspiring numbers considering that the Honor Code is supposed to hold all students to, well, their honor.

"Cheating," in the BLS Handbook, is partially defined as "using materials unauthorized by the teacher during a test." Over the years, when you had a cheat sheet on your lap, that open notebook placed under your desk or that formula written on your hand, each instance was a major infraction that, if discovered, could lead to your censure or other severe punishments.

How many of you are guilty of sharing test answers or questions? After all, when you did not have time to study for that one test, you grabbed your friend in the hall and asked if there were any in-depth questions about the Revolution of

1800, right? What is the administration supposed to do—bug the hallways to catch the students in the act? Only eight percent of surveyed students strongly agreed that sharing test information was a form of cheating. This attitude is a reflection of the nonchalance shown toward cheating at Boston Latin. There's no way to eliminate the deed completely, and teachers have to trust their students to some extent or else nothing would be accomplished. Many teachers see the problem of widespread cheating and take their own steps to cut back on it. One way is to make multiple editions of tests so that students don't share answers, but it also creates more pointless work for the already busy teachers.

And what about copying others' work or using unauthorized study aids, such as SparkNotes, PinkMonkey and CliffNotes? These offenses are so common that they barely seem forbidden. For students, it's just

another part of life at Boston Latin or any high school, as a matter of fact.

So why doesn't the Honor Code work? Boston Latin isn't exactly lax about punishing those who cheat. Is it because we are surrounded by examples of cheaters in our everyday lives? Is it because of the pressure that we justify our wrongdoing with the excuse of necessity?

It's true that cheating is everywhere.



AN UNFORTUNATELY COMMON SCENE AT BLS

Sports are just one example of where cheating, or at least bending the rules, is prevalent. Football, baseball, cycling, even track, have experienced major scandals in recent months concerning cheating.

Major companies and elite politicians are caught cheating all the time. How could this not affect the students of America? And it's not just small-scale stuff. Last year, a teacher of mine read an article about a group of AP students who went so far as to steal the standardized test before it was administered. Little did that teacher know that in previous days many of the students in that particular class had cheated on their own quizzes. But of course, no one said a word. Seventy-five percent of the students surveyed said that they would not, in any situation, report someone cheating on a test—cheating is the norm, and it shows.

The pressure to do well is no small issue either. There's that little seven-letter word that comes up a lot: college. There are more students than ever applying to college, more kids taking a full load of AP and Honors courses, more with GPAs north of 4.0 and more extracurriculars than can be counted on the fingers of everyone in your English class. How are we supposed to compete in order to get into the school of our dreams? We have to beat them: get even higher grades, do even more work, fit in even more activities and sleep even less. So maybe you didn't have time between softball, volunteering,

CHEATING

Check out the survey results on page 8

Boston Latté School

BY LAUREN ANDERSON, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is a Monday morning and you are rushing to get in the shower and leave for school. Once you have gotten out of the house, you trek over to Dunkin' Donuts to grab some coffee. You have only taken a couple sips of it when you arrive at America's most prestigious public high school, Boston Latin School, and you are forced immediately to dispose of what may be the only beverage that can counteract sleep-deprivation.

Why are we being forced to part with our coffee, or for that matter, any drink other than water, upon leaving the Dining Hall? I'm not sure I understand why this is happening. I can see the justification of why food is prohibited outside the Dining Hall, but drinks? What's the big deal? The administration claims that water is easier to clean up and comes in plastic bottles, which cannot break. Being some of the smartest students in the country, however, we have found many ways of sneaking our precious morning nectar past teachers.

Every person has a morning routine, whether it is taking a scalding hot shower or drinking coffee. If we are forced to deviate from this, it greatly affects the rest of our day. Denying the drinking of coffee anytime before third period causes the entire day to blur together and does not appear to be effective for causing anything but misery among the students.

Are teachers so perturbed by the students' caffeine-fueled mornings that they must put an end to it with what amount to a ban? If this is the case, then the regulations must apply to either everybody or nobody at all. What causes the administration to think that teachers need caffeine, and the overworked students do not? This is a double standard. Are some teachers who are cracking down harshly on contraband coffee, while others seem not to care. The latter approach is better. Why should teachers prohibit students' coffee while

they drink it themselves?

We each have individual working methods. Multi-tasking is a skill that we should master now, and will certainly be required later in life. All students at BLS should be able to listen while taking the occasional sip of coffee. Coffee does not adversely affect our brains—as a matter of fact, the only result of drinking coffee in the morning is that it gives us a greater attention span in our first period classes, and stops us from drooling on our desks. Not being allowed to drink coffee will simply exacerbate the treacherous pattern of sleeping in class. But the administration does not recognize this, and so we remain caffeine-less and continue to yawn throughout our day of hard work, which includes classes, after-school activities and late-night homework. Some people are able to perform rather successfully without caffeine, but I can only imagine what great success we would achieve if we were allowed coffee in the morning.

If a student needs his or her latte in the morning, they should be allowed to drink coffee. Boston Latin, a college preparatory school, should treat their mature students as if they were in college. By doing this, we could even make the transition into college much smoother. In college, many libraries possess cafés. In college, they trust that you are conditioned to drink coffee and learn at the same time: you are receiving a higher education, after all. I would hope that most people, especially the "smartest students in the country," are indeed smart enough to know not to spill liquids on books and other school materials.

By prohibiting coffee in the prestigious halls of BLS, the Head Master and his administrators are assuming that the students of the Latin School are incapable of learning while drinking coffee. This is utterly ridiculous. I don't know how many doctors believe that coffee can result in death, cause major bodily harm, make someone to rush a sixie, translate into a failing grade or convince students to be disrespectful to authority. It is only coffee.

Dusty Clemente

BY KATIE WALSH, II
& EMILY Cavanaugh, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Most of us do not need a trained medical expert to tell us that inhaling mouthfuls of dust is not something that should be done on a regular basis. As for the Boston Latin School football team, three to four days of the week are spent at nearby Clemente Field, where the dust in the air is thick enough to create what appears to be a small desert storm. These questionable practice conditions have the parents of our hardworking players concerned. The players spend at least three hours every day at Clemente Field executing football drills and prepping themselves for the upcoming weekend game, all while their bodies are being subjected to multiple health risks. The players work through these arduous conditions, knowing that their lungs are slowly accumulating all the dust seen flying around them. Michael Walsh (II), a three year veteran of the team, even tells us that "it's hard to see and breathe."

Football practices are notorious for returning kids home caked in fresh mud and dirt, wearing their battle wounds like badges of honor on their elbows and knees. It's almost impossible to stay clean when playing football, though this doesn't mean that our players should have to practice in dust so heavy that they can't distinguish their teammates from the surrounding trees. The excess dust also increases the potential to cause respiratory illnesses, as well as exacerbating existing conditions, like asthma. The parents of our school community should be able to send their kids to practice trusting that

they will return home safe and healthy.

In the construction industry, federal laws mandate that the workers are required to wear respirators or gas masks to protect their lungs from a specified level of airborne dirt. Then why are our players breathing in this dust like it's oxygen at every practice? The safety of our students should be the number one concern of school administrators and state politicians. Numerous letters have been written over the years to State Representatives, City Councilors and the Parks Department all to no avail. This is simply unacceptable. Wolfpack athlete Jared Coyne (II) reports: "It's hot and dusty, and nearly impossible to breathe." Breathing being that key human function allowing us not only to live, but also to practice the newest football plays.

For years it has been the same practice field, with the same conditions, and

it's high time that we protect our own team from the negative effects of hours spent breathing in dust. The short-term fix of simply wetting the field down before each practice, though only taking up a few minutes of the three hour practice sessions, would turn the dust bowl into a muddy turf, complete with full visibility. But a long-term solution would probably be more effective, such as replacing the worn-out artificial turf with natural grass. The eight-month period will be a long time to get the job done and done well, for our players' sake.

There is no doubt that the team would be more realistic if the team were able to practice on an actual



EVEN WITH RAIN, THE FIELD WILL SOON DRY AGAIN

CLEMENTE FIELD
Continued on page 8

FORUM

Cast Frustrated by Cancellation

BY AMY WALSH, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

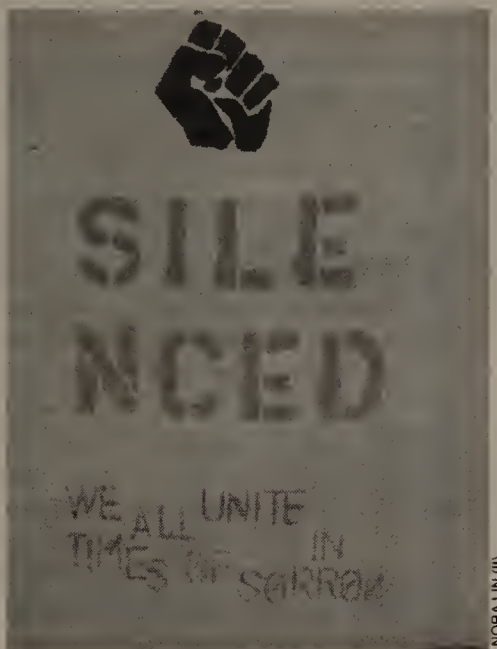
The Columbine shooting was a tragic event that panged the hearts of Americans, forever changing the dynamics in schools across the United States. Twelve students and one teacher were left dead with 24 others wounded. The two perpetrators, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, committed suicide after the shootings. This massacre was truly horrifying as it demonstrated that high school students were capable of such an extreme level of violence. This incident heightened paranoia. Many feared the potential for a repeat of this tragedy. Trench coat-wearers were often polarized, as the two gunmen were widely known for donning this apparel. Ask anyone who was old enough at the time and they will likely recall Columbine and its drastic ramifications in the American school system. Anyone who does not remember this occurrence, should be informed of it and given a chance to learn from the tragedy, lest it be repeated.

"Columbinus," written by Stephen Karam and PJ Paparelli, is a play based on the high school shootings of April 1999 at Columbine High School in Jefferson County, Colorado and the resentment and suspicion that arose in that community because of it. The play discusses bullying, suicide and the lack of adult support available to adolescents.

When first presented with the proposal of performing the play, the administration granted approval, but requested that the profanity and gun references be taken out. Ms. Christa Crewdson, in turn, edited the script over the summer and held auditions for the play early in the school year. After auditions were held and the cast was determined, however, the administration approached Ms. Crewdson, telling her that the play was not appropri-

ate. Ms. Crewdson then struck a deal. She proposed that the administration hold off on a final decision until after it saw a performance of the play.

After listening to a reading of the script, Boston Latin School's administration decided that the show must *not* go on. It expressed worries that the suicidal thoughts in the play could have a devastating effect on students suffering from depression. It feared that upon viewing the play, some already unstable students might consider suicide a tenable answer



POSTER IN SUPPORT OF THE CANCELED PRODUCTION

to their difficulties. They also disapproved that guidance counselors were portrayed as incapable of helping troubled kids. (While it is true that guidance counselors did not help troubled kids at Columbine High School, that in no way reflects on the abilities of our own school counselors.) These concerns are legitimate, but I fear that by censoring the play or by refusing its performance, the truth of the incident would be denied to students who ought to learn from it.

The administration has approved

controversial plays in the past. "The Laramie Project," a play performed at BLS in 2003, like "Columbinus" displays painful subject matter. Although this play dealt with unpleasant realities, the drama club was permitted to perform it. While some of the same concerns surrounding Columbinus were present during the rehearsing of the Laramie Project, its performance ultimately had a positive impact on our school, as it "shed light on a topic that needed to be discussed," according to Scott Walsh (I). The administration should view "Columbinus" with this perspective, but unfortunately it does not.

This dark episode in our nation's history, while tragic, is one that must not be forgotten. Anything that reminds us of past tragedy can be painful but this does not mean all gloomy memories should be erased from our memory banks. Apparently the administration does not concur.

As a former member of the cast of "Columbinus," I saw the transformation of the script firsthand. It went from being an informative, powerful play to a watered-down Disney version of the horrific events. Not only do I believe it would benefit our school community to perform the play, but I also feel that the play should not be edited to make others comfortable. People should be aware of this horrific event. I understand the administration's fears that this play could give rise to similar incidents especially in light of the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech. However, I believe that the positives of performing this play far outweigh the negatives.

Label it what you will: censorship, precautionary methods, bias. The fact remains the same—we were denied the right to perform a play. Do you think that's fair? Whatever happened to freedom of expression?

'Puter Peeves

BY AMBER CRANSTON, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

How many times have you gone to the computer labs in the basement, only to find that most of the computers were not even working? If you are like me, someone who relies on the school's computers to print out homework, then the answer is "quite often." The mad rush of students to the computer labs every morning is something that many have come to regard as the norm. Many teachers give no leeway when it comes to printing homework after the period when it is due, so many people printing in the morning face this situation.

There is usually a crowd of students trying to get into the computer labs in the basement in the morning. Even though they only need to use it for a few minutes once they get in, the labs are probably some of the most trafficked areas in the school during the 10 minutes before homeroom. But if you have not been down there yet this year, then you probably are not aware that one of the computer labs is closed. Last week, a now-missing sign on the door proclaimed that the computer lab on the left (the one with fewer working computers) will be closed for the entire year. This just exacerbates the ever-persistent problem of the lack of usable computers in the mornings.

When asked about the labs, Andy Vo, (IV) said, "Well, on the days they're

working, they're slow. It just seems like the days I need the lab the most, the printer isn't working or the lab just isn't open at all." He is not the only student that feels this way. On some mornings, the teachers do not even bother to open the computer lab.

Morning is not the only time the computers in the labs are used. Teachers depend on the labs to prepare materials



for their classes, do preliminary research or create PowerPoint presentations. More often, they take individual classes downstairs so students can type important assignments or begin doing research online. "Last year," said Chris Nguyen (III), "I was down there a couple times a month for different classes. The teachers were always fuming because of how little work was getting done due to the lack of working computers." I myself had only been down there a few times last year, but every time,

I was forced to double up with someone on a machine. This became a problem when, for instance, everyone was working on an individual project. As a result, none of the information being accessed by the person sharing the computer with me would be helpful, and vice versa.

The school does not have the budget to buy new computers, and the specialists already here have to deal with other problems, such as fixing teachers' computers and projectors. Still, the answer is not to simply close the lab down. Instead, we could get another printer or two for the lab that is working, in order to ease the congestion on the single printer there now. I am sure, if asked, that students would even be willing to pool together their own money to buy a new printer or someone might have an older model to donate.

We are all aware that the computers in the library are fully usable. They are the best computers in the school, but they are closed off to students in the mornings. It just does not make any sense. Students scramble to print out their assignments on one printer, while several other fully functional printers remain dormant. I think that if the library staff would just allow students in the library during the morning, this would not even be an issue in the first place. It is difficult enough for students to get by without a computer or printer at home. If the school has resources available, the whole point is for students to be able to utilize them.

Justice for Jena Six

BY MICHAEL SCHWARTZ, I
STAFF WRITER

A case of "Jim Crow justice" in Louisiana has become a lightning rod for simmering anger at racism in the United States. But the judicial railroading of six black students in Jena, Louisiana has sparked more than just outrage and bitterness. The case has led thousands of people to become part of the fight to free the Jena Six.

In August 2006, black students in the rural town of Jena, Louisiana, asked to sit under the "white tree" outside of school. The next day, nooses were hung on the tree. School and town authorities treated the incident as a prank and only gave those involved suspensions. The black residents understood that the nooses were a threat. According to the mother of one of the Jena Six, "It meant the KKK, it meant 'n*****s, we're going to kill you, we're gonna hang you 'til you die.'"

The town's black residents, however, understood that in Klan country this was a direct threat, and did something about it. Black members of the school football team held a sit-in in front of the tree. The school principal quickly called an emergency assembly in the school auditorium, where white and black students were, per custom, on opposite sides of the auditorium. District Attorney Reed Walters made it clear whose side authorities were on. He turned to the black students and said, "I can be your best friend, or I can be your worst enemy." Pulling a pen from his suit, he continued, "I want you to understand that with a stroke of my pen I can make your lives disappear!"

Over the course of the semester, racial tensions escalated. Around November, three black students were beaten for coming to an all-white school dance after being invited by a white girl. When the police came, they laid hands on the black students, telling them to get their "black a**s out of this part of town." The next morning at a local convenience store, a white man pulled a shotgun on the same black students. When they wrestled the gun away, they were charged with theft.

The following Monday, a white student who had been crowing about one of the black students "getting his butt kicked" was beaten up by six black students. He went to the hospital, but was able to go to a party on the same night. But the six students, Robert Bailey, Theo Shaw, Carwin Jones, Bryant Purvis, Mychal Bell and an unidentified minor, age 15 to 17, were immediately charged with attempted murder, with maximum sentences of 100 years each. DA Reed Walters made good on his previous pledge, claiming that the tennis shoes Bell was wearing during the incident qualified as "dangerous weapons" and pushing to try each defendant as an adult.

Bell, a star running back on his way to a Division I career was tried this past summer on charges reduced to aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy. He was tried in front of a white judge and an all-white jury. The judge immediately ruled that the noose hangings were irrelevant to the case. Unable to afford a lawyer, Bell received an unprepared public defender who was primarily concerned with reaching a plea deal with the DA, called no witnesses and failed to challenge the composition of the jury. Although some witnesses claimed they saw the white student throw the first punch, Bell was found guilty. The jury only deliberated for three hours. The five other students are still awaiting trial.

JENA SIX
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FORUM

The Revised Guide to Slicker Slacking

By RICHARD PENG, I
LAYOUT EDITOR

Word on the street, I mean halls, is that this year 27 kids transferred out of some class. That class will remain nameless, but the point here is that in a class of 30, there are only three left. Some of you are thinking: there's got to be something wrong with that teacher. But having spent a very long time pondering about this, I have come to the conclusion that there is only one at fault here. What I think happened is an expectation gap, much like the government's credibility gap during Vietnam. (I hope my AP U.S. History teacher takes note of this ingenious metaphor.) This gap, I believe is also the result of the "New BLS." There have been so many changes in the past few months that I have really begun to feel my age.

Former Head Master Cornelia Kelley's departure, along with those of other teachers, seems to have also taken away some of our traditions. Now the senior section in the dining hall has been invaded by smaller folks (it's bad enough that those

rolly bags almost kill me on the stairs but while I'm eating?) and the previously lax caffeine rules are more strictly enforced, not unlike what the British did with the Navigation Acts. (Shameless U.S. History plug number two.)

With all the new changes, the only thing left from the good 'ole days is us, the students. In the past, when we signed up for certain classes, we expected certain things. For example, if we signed up for AP Calculus, we expected a hard class. In the past, when we signed up for a certain other classes, we expected curriculum-based, more-around-auditory learning than all those time consuming assessments and needless paperwork.

The system used to work, but with the influx, and I mean deluge, of a billion bright-eyed, bushy-tailed teachers who come to Boston Latin thinking we're all great students who are wide awake from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., that time-honored belief has changed.

So what happens when a teacher mistakenly anticipates a class full of students looking forward to the next lesson

and is met by 30 pairs of eyes expecting a teacher who can't wait until retirement? Each party finds an "expectation gap" and three chuckleheads who slept through the first few weeks and upon waking, are surprised that Jessica Alba isn't standing at the front of the room.

The expectation gap should be easy for students to adjust to, though gradually. In a few years, we'll have already refined "The List" of teachers, but what about the more immediate danger? In the 1650s, enforcement of the Navigation Acts led to a bloody revolution which bore this glorious nation. Should the administration fear an armed uprising? Of course not; we're BLS kids. We obviously would have a creative way of getting around a slight setback without resorting to violence. For those of you who still need help, please take notes.

The issue at hand is not really caffeine. The reason caffeine has been banned from aiding our studies is because it often comes in a flimsy paper cup and its sugary, sticky contents attract rodents. The solution? Take away the sugary, sticky coffee. And what do you have left? Caffeine. Yes,

my friends, you can get your caffeine fix in a pill. (Don't get caught popping the pills in school, even if they're just caffeine because they'll land you in the office of a certain Assistant Head Master for a chat.) Of course, I'm only joking. Popping a caffeine pill isn't as glamorous as walking around with the hottest new accessory—the Starbucks cup. And we all know, half the people don't really need caffeine. I've seen people as young as freshmen walking around with a thermos, and honestly, if you're up at three in the morning doing Algebra or Biology 1, maybe Latin School isn't the best fit for you.

Any spills could not have been the fault of a tired student. Those students have been emptying their college funds for those Starbucks drinks and wouldn't drop a cup if their lives depended on it. In the event that the ban continues, might I suggest an easier way of controlling our rodent problem? Do nothing. Eventually the rats'll get hooked on caffeine too, and will migrate to the Dunkin' Donuts down the street to satisfy their desire for the miracle bean.

CHEATING

Continued from page 6

classical piano and flower arrangement lessons to do some repetitive exercises from a workbook. Who can it harm to copy someone's answers on the way to school? Scholarships, prizes and awards are granted to those who keep their grades up—another incentive to cheat. But if it came down to two students: you, the cheater, and Student B, an honest student, for a prize, and you won, isn't that just like stealing money from the rightful recipient?

The cheating continues from high school to college to graduate school, and then here you are, \$100,000 worth of tuition later, with a master's degree and no idea what you're doing because you copied homework, got text messages with answers during tests and plagiarized your papers. It seems unlikely, but it's possible. Are professors supposed to search web-

sites that offer papers online to make sure that their students aren't copying, wasting their own time? And, like in high school, class work may account for a portion of your grade, but it's the tests that make or break you. And if you're a below-average test taker, just fall back on cheating. In fact, even if you are a good test taker who studies and thinks about questions, you probably won't get the perfect score that your cheating neighbor might receive. What's a student to do?

I'm not going to sit here and outline ways for the administration to catch kids in the act. Even if instances of getting caught increased, would that really stop the trend? Or, for students, would the reward still outweigh the risk? What needs to happen among students is a re-evaluation of morals and a look at the amount of dishonesty accepted in academic life. Then let's all go program our calculators with equations so we can do well on the SATs.

JENA SIX

Continued from page 7

It is fitting that the case should rise to prominence fifty years after the famous scene in Little Rock, Arkansas, where nine black students entering the segregated Central High faced an angry white mob and the state governor determined to turn them away. It was clear then that while segregation might not have been official law, it was a reality. While we are told repeatedly that racism is a thing of the past, the case of the Jena Six proves again that racism is a reality in this country. The appalling double standards of the case—an unpunished string of hate crimes, followed by 20-plus year sentences for a justifiable schoolyard fight leave a bitter taste in the mouths of millions in this country.

But some people are doing more than just getting angry. On September 20, around 50,000 people came from across the country to Jena in support of the Jena 6. Students rallied on campuses in cities like Nashville and Atlanta, not to mention the high school students who wore black or green to show their support. Out of this action came a National Walk Out Day

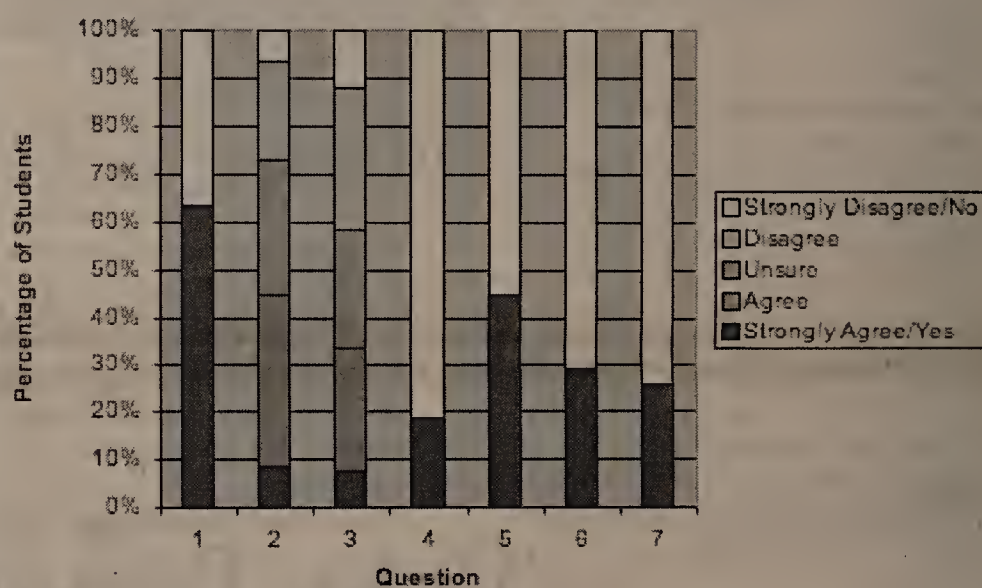
on October 1, organized by activists from campuses from the University of Texas to UMass, rappers like Mos Def and Talib Kweli and the National Hip Hop Political Convention.

This mobilization has brought the case of the Jena 6 to national and international prominence. A Louisiana appeals court threw out the convictions of Mychal Bell and released him from prison. The court ruled that Bell, who was 16 at the time, should not have been tried as an adult.

But the rest of the Jena 6 are not yet free. It is going to require the same mobilization and pressure to force the state of Louisiana to drop all the charges. This was a crucial lesson learned in the Civil Rights Movement—no one else will do it for us. It is important to note that no major Democratic Party politician has said anything about this injustice.

The upsurge in anger and action on behalf of the Jena 6 did not come from nowhere. It is a reflection of peoples' pent-up anger over the way racism dominates this country. Reverend Jesse Jackson was right when he declared "There's a Jena in every state in America." It is going to take a movement if we want to change that.

Student Response to Questions on Cheating



ACTUAL SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever done something you yourself consider cheating in school?
Yes / No

2. "I consider copying homework cheating." Do you agree with the statement?
Strongly agree / Agree / Unsure / Disagree / Strongly Disagree

3. "I consider sharing information about tests already taken with fellow students to be cheating?"
Strongly agree / Agree / Unsure /

Disagree / Strongly Disagree
4. Do you think you know the BLS Honor Code Pledge verbatim?
Yes / No

5. Do you think you could paraphrase the BLS Honor Code?
Yes / No

6. Does taking the BLS Honor Code pledge make a difference?
Yes / No

7. Would there be a situation where you would report that a fellow student was cheating on a test?
Yes / No

CLEMENTE FIELD

Continued from page 6

football field instead of this veritable desert. Players would actually be able see their offensive and defensive teammates while running their plays, which would surely be an advantage to players trying to master team strategies. Our athletes will be able to stop worrying about inhaling a mouthful of dirt and being blinded by the dust-rich atmosphere, and concentrate on their football maneuvers and tactics. It goes without saying that anyone who is faced with a possible mouthful of dirt will be focusing more on avoiding that land mine than they will be with catching a ball or tackling a teammate. Bottom line: our players deserve more for the time they

put in than what we are giving them. Even more perplexing is why nothing has been done to fix this problem while this field has been a noticeable disaster for years.

Despite arguments that playing in such conditions "builds character," it is safe to say that such obvious and avoidable health hazards have raised mounting concerns among uneasy parents. With the increasing risks of respiratory disease, it is no wonder that complaints continue to be heard. Our players give their all each and every practice and game. They spend hours after their long school day working to better their game. They then continue to provide our school with endless entertainment and pride as we watch them battle the opposing teams. Is it too much to ask that we return the favor?

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

We will reserve space in future editions of the *Argo* for short readers' responses. You can e-mail your thoughts, questions, commentaries or criticisms of any recent articles to blsargo.talkback@gmail.com. Shoot for between 150-300 words. (No double-spacing.) Please include your name and class. We look forward to hearing from you!

A & E

Stiller Leaves Us Heartbroken

BY ZOE CUIPYLO-WATKINS, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Farrelly Brothers' latest movie, *The Heartbreak Kid*, is like a breath of fresh air. We haven't seen Ben Stiller make a fool of himself since...well, since his last movie. This newest concoction, loosely based on the 1972 version of the same name, manages to fuse David Bowie, Mexican immigrants, dirty (bordering on obscene) sex scenes and blatant, in-your-face stereotypes, resulting in a caricature of married life that would scare even Henry VIII.

Stiller plays Eddie Cantrow, the owner of a sports store in San Francisco. Eddie is constantly being pushed by his dad and best friend to settle down, or at least to "get laid" more often. His father Doc (Jerry Stiller) takes regular trips to Vegas. His best friend Mac (Rob

Corddry) is married with a kid, though not exactly happy, and encourages Eddie to pursue a life like his. Eddie is content being single—until he goes to the wedding of his ex-fiancée. Walking home from

one is stealing her purse. The love story progresses as love stories always do, until Lila is told she is being transferred to Rotterdam for her job. But since it is against company policy to move married people, after only six weeks of dating, Eddie and Lila get married.

I'm pretty sure anyone on the street could tell them what a bad idea this marriage would have been. Predictably, things go wrong—horribly wrong. Eddie and Lila travel to Mexico for their honeymoon, where, luck would have it, Eddie meets the girl of his dreams (Michelle Monaghan), just as his new wife begins to show her true colors.

Ben Stiller can bring it when necessary, and he does bring it—at one point speaking fluent Spanish—with the kind of sweet vulnerability that makes you want to forgive his character for cheating on his wife and hope that he arrives at a happy



WE DON'T SEE THIS GOING PAST FOREPLAY

the wedding, he meets the gorgeous but ditzy Lila (Malin Akerman) while some-

Heating Up

"bandages" 50 times).

Their new single, "Let Me In," is the only pop-sounding song in the entire album (thankfully). Personally, I particularly despise the song and the video, which seemed too centered on the lead singer walking around and whining. I must say that these are two flaws in an otherwise mediocre album. The two-year gap in between albums was much less than the three-year span between *Make Up The Breakdown* and *Elevator*, partly because the band wrote songs while on tour for *Elevator*. Bays says that this makes each song a bit more varied, since they were writing in the UK, Japan and Mexico (to name a few). Despite the different moods and inspirations on tour, Hot Hot Heat has done an all right job tying everything in. It seems like a concept

album following Hawthorne's aforementioned theme. In the lyrics, he meets an ambitious girl who is disappointed with her life and with whom he has a disappointing relationship.

The idea of a concept album aside, Hot Hot Heat displayed some very catchy beats in this CD. I found a bit of the synthesizer Steve Bays is famous for in

in the middle of the album), and resulted in a great song. A song released onto their MySpace, "Give Up?" also has great beats throughout, all coming from Paul Hawley, one of the original band members. What makes this album different from the others is its accompaniments. Bays' lyrics have always been catchy, but all of the instruments really speak clearly in this album. While the keyboard has been kept only to the opening riffs in recent albums, it seems to be a tradition to have a distinct keyboard part in the last song of each album ("In Cairo" from *Make Up The Breakdown*, "Elevator" from *Elevator*, and "Waiting For Nothing" from *Happiness Ltd.*). The drums seem to make the middle songs memorable, while the keyboard helps the last song tie it all together.

This album is heavy on experimentation. Hot Hot Heat is searching for a sound of their own, which is extremely hard to find because the band has had to deal with the repeated loss of band members. The frequent lineup changes in between the production of each CD gives each album a varied sound. If the band stays the same and releases another album perhaps they will find their unique sound. Maybe this will be the flint to spark Hot Hot Heat's flame.



the song "Harmonicas and Tambourines," which is my favorite song of the album. According to Bays, they included four different drum sets in this song. This risky move actually paid off (unlike the ballad

Being Naked Is Out of Style

BY GEORGETTE BIBBER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For as long as I've endured life at Boston Latin School, I've found that here, just as in the real world, there are "fashionably-challenged" people. Case in point: the wannabe hip hop/rap star. Wearing all Marc Ecko creates an excess of rhinos. They're an endangered species and should be kept that way. Sean John would be much preferred, as Diddy is the epitome of fashion and extravagance and his clothing line reflects this. A crisp white T-shirt and a pair of jeans always look nice in an acceptable, neat American way, but it can get rather boring if your shirt selection is limited. A versatile vest, rock T, vintage-looking sports T-shirt or an ironic and fun shirt with a bright or unusual pattern will make you look seriously funky. Pair your outfit with dressier items such as a blazer, or with lots of accessories à la Kanye's shutter shades.

Rondale Davis (I) is a perfect example of the updated casual look. He describes

himself as a fly guy, someone with a good amount of variety in his wardrobe. His Levi's tag says it all: quality, style, a head-turning fit, a touch of swagger and red-hot magnetism, adding up to pure genius. For a more businesslike approach, take a pointer from the boys' soccer team, an enlightening sight of color-coordinated ties, collared shirts and leather shoes. It would be unfair to expect the rest of the male population to adopt these standards every day, but it isn't a stretch to wear a simple polo or golf shirt and khakis. Must-haves that both males and females can expand their wardrobe with include argyle sweaters, cashmere-and-cotton cardigans, and dress slacks.

Now, if only we ladies were endowed with Jennifer Lopez's fashion sense, the world would be a dazzling place. Unfortunately, a lot of us want to look chic but just need a little boost, so listen up: for any season, trends don't mean a thing unless they work on you. Every girl can pull off metallics, whether

with a purse, leggings, a sheer top or a demure pair of earrings or headband. Timeless pieces to freshen up fall involve plaid

right now it's all about dressing in deep, vivid jewel tones, intermixed with bright bold colors. Think emeralds, sapphires, rubies, amethyst and the dazzling colors of diamonds. Colors can be effortlessly coordinated with earrings, belts, sweaters, satin tops, bubble skirts, kimono tunics or the classic baby doll dress. Bianca Rose (II) added a burst of color to her pink scarf tee shirt and jean look with a sleek leather jacket, green headband, and oversized shades. *Voilà!*

Don't forget about the essentials like jeans and a casual top. As mentioned earlier, this look will always be au courant. Now that you have the basics down pat, just remember to wear clean underwear.



BIANCA ROSE AND RONDALE DAVIS SHOWING YOU HOW IT'S DONE

or hounds-tooth dresses, skirts, shawls or ruffled blouses. When contemplating fall fashion, colors such as brown, black, burgundy and gray often come to mind. That is an archaic color theory, because

Spotlight Eben Haines



BY ZACHARY PAGE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Eben and I first bonded over our mutual affection for music in the tenth grade during one of Mr. Bradford Smith's hilarious Latin classes. Little did I know that I would soon call him one of my absolute best friends, or that I would learn even less about the Latin language than before due to our habit of practically yelling across the room to each other.

From then on, Eben became my "de facto" source for modern underground music, a title which he holds to this very day. For those of you who don't know the guy personally, Eben is a man of many art forms and ideas. I myself have never known any other student who is as in tune with the creative process as he is, and if there's one thing that Eben never lacks, it's imagination. Whether it's creating T-shirt designs, working on visual art pieces, recording his friends' music or perfecting his own compositions with the metalcore outfit The Accidental Will, Eben always looks excited about the opportunity to push himself and break through the boundaries of all those respective art forms. In fact, he always seems to be able to brighten up a room with his unrestrained energy and distinctive brand of humor, even when everyone else around him is in the worst of moods.

Walking into the Haines household is like stepping into a mini-museum, and alongside his parents' numerous works are his own pieces which already possess incredible visuals and depth. In addition, his T-shirt designs and various prints always attract more than a few observant scene kids when he sells them at his band's shows. He even gets a special request every now and again.

But Eben's greatest love is music, which is where he excels the most. Aside from being one of the most impressive of the guitar players in our school, his original compositions are also tremendously solid, and always showcase his ability to transition from a tranquil interlude into an absolutely pummeling breakdown. While he is a rabid audiophile, he also holds a thorough understanding of music production, and being a producer is the only career goal he's ever mentioned to me. It really is both hilarious and amazing to see his pride when a particularly frustrating track is laid down, and with the amount of experimentation and inventiveness he puts into the process, Eben should be a well sought-after music producer soon after graduating college.

Although you probably wouldn't have guessed it by reading this article, Eben is truly one of the funniest people I have ever met, not to mention loyal and kind. It's near impossible not to laugh at one of his ridiculous impressions or side-splitting gestures, and upon first meeting him it's easy to see why he's beloved by many. Eben Haines is a guy worth knowing regardless of his immense artistic ability, and he deserves all the good luck and best wishes we can dish out as he's on the road to becoming the best producer in the world.

A & E Rowdy Fun On Green Street

BY TERRANCE BROWN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Green Street Hooligans has emerged to become a cult classic within the past couple of years. Its 2005 theatrical release was in England, and the only real actor of note featured was Elijah Wood. There was never much advertising for the film in the United States; word of mouth proved to be its only true publicist. It instantly became popular with teenage males simply because of its masterfully choreographed fight sequences. Nearly everyone who saw it raved about it and recommended it to others. Since its American debut on DVD, it has become a favorite of many people. *Green Street* immediately draws the viewer's attention with its action scenes, though viewers should be warned that some scenes are rather violent, and the language rather coarse. Looking beyond

all of that, however, one can find several themes that are relevant in today's society. For example, jealousy, loyalty, vengeance, the assertion of an identity, reformation, courage and sacrifice are all visible, not to mention an abundance of witty and clever quotes.

Matt Buckner (Wood) is a spineless journalism major at Harvard. He is expelled because his roommate's drugs are found among his belongings, and he does not have the courage to stand against his roommate's prestigious reputation and face the backlash. Soon after his arrival in England, Pete Dunham (Charlie Hunnam), the brother of Buckner's sister's husband, takes him to a soccer match. It turns out that Pete is the head of The Green Street Elite, West Ham United's firm. Matt becomes involved with the crew, and the resulting lifestyle of violence and alcohol completely alters his persona.

The film is action-packed and reaches a truly thrilling climax after an incident with the Milwall firm.

While I highly recommend *Green Street*, it should be appreciated for the plot rather than the acting. In fact, the storyline is marvelous, but may take some pondering to fully comprehend. The special features on the DVD are few and boil down to a documentary on the making of the movie, which offers the viewer a little background information, and a music video for Terence Jay's song entitled "One Blood," which is played in the final fight sequence. This is the type of movie that never gets old or played out. This is a movie that anybody can appreciate because it encapsulates so much; from the action scenes to the universal themes, *Green Street Hooligans* is a solid picture.

GPA: 3.3
NEEDS TO HIT THE BOOKS

New Level of Reckless Abandonment

BY ROGER LU, V
STAFF WRITER

The premise of CBS's new show *Kid Nation* is this: 40 kids have been plunked down right in the middle of a ghost town, leaving them to fend for themselves with no adults. Although an interesting idea, it raises some controversial issues concerning the safety and realism of the show. The kids in the show have access to hazardous appliances like kitchen knives and stoves. Sure, the older kids in the group can handle it, but what about the inexperienced nine-year-olds? Who will be on hand if a nine-year-old cuts himself? Another question the producers of *Kid Nation* have yet to address is the realism of the show. It is presented in a documentary style but one must wonder if that kid crying for his parents could have been told to do so by an adult sitting in a lawn chair five feet away.

The ground rules were revealed minutes into the first episode: anyone who wants to leave can leave immediately and there will be no adults whatsoever. Leadership was established, with a Town Council selected by the producers. The council members were Mike (11 years old), Taylor (10), Anjay (12) and Laurel (12). The episode then continued with the kids settling into Bonanza City, New Mexico. Teams were assembled and assigned a color. A showdown occurred to determine who would gain what social class. The competition involved pumping water out of specific pipes to fill bottles. Red, the winner, was given the upper class position, receiving a pay of one dol-

lar and the ability to choose their occupation. Blue received the merchant class and the salary of 50 cents to run candy stores. Yellow acquired the cook position and 25 cents to cook and clean dishes. Finally, Green received the thankless job of laborer, being forced to clean the outhouses, carry water and haul garbage all for the monumental sum of 10 cents. Also, for completing the challenge in the given timeframe they gained a reward of more outhouses. And to conclude the episode, competitor Sophia was awarded with the gold star trophy for her hard work and leadership skills. The trophy entitled her to \$20,000 to use after the show concluded.

The town had lost one member, Jimmy, after he decided that the town was too tough for him. The show seemed to me to be a good way to teach spoiled kids in the show about "roughin' it."

The second episode focused on the chicken debate. The kids had grown tired of eating grits and pancakes and wanted meat. The council then suggested killing chickens, which caused an uproar in *Kid Nation*. In the end the kids decided to kill two of their chickens and they had stew for dinner that night. This caused quite an uproar in the CBS forums as well, with people ranting over whether it was ethical or not to allow young children to kill chickens and then broadcast it on live television. I must say that this simply fortifies my previous statement about introducing the kids to the art of survival. They voted for the killing and it was performed by 15-year-old Greg who had had experience as a butcher.

The third episode was by far the most eventful. It kicked off with a soda party with kids chugging down gallons and gallons of the fizzy stuff. It was enough of a sight to make Alcoholics Anonymous cringe. As was to be expected, everyone was wasted the next day. So the Town Council decided to converge and they set up a curfew of 9:30 p.m. Obviously this didn't bode well with the Nation. But the council had an elegant yet simple response: Deal with it! As always, there was a dispute. I have to say that this episode was the most inventive so far. It involved sheep with playing cards strapped around their necks and names such as "Dean" spray-painted on their backs. The Town Council then stood upon a balcony with a sign naming which sheep to catch. They had to find the sheep with the right name and inform their group. The challenges intensified for me because of my familiarity with the players. The notable last event was a dust storm that hit the town. It knocked over most of the outhouses. Luckily enough for the Nation, that was the extent of the damage. The show concluded as always with an award giving ceremony for the Gold Star. This time it was given to Mallory, a nine-year-old member of Blue group.

All in all, I have to say that *Kid Nation* has shown itself to be a solid show that is able to plow through controversies. Although some parts may have been altered or affected, I think the realism of the show is still kept intact. *Kid Nation* is a good concept and will certainly attract many viewers.

Uglies is Pretty Good

BY MEGAN BOYLAN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Imagine a world where, at the age of 16, everyone receives intensive plastic surgery to make them look like gorgeous supermodels. In *Uglies*, the first novel of an award-winning series, author Scott Westerfeld depicts a futuristic civilization set three centuries after society as we know it has ended. In this community, the kids who haven't gotten the head-to-toe surgery yet are considered "uglies," while the stunning 16 and older crowd are called "pretties."

Like everyone else in her society, the main character, Tally Youngblood, believes that this surgery is a rite

of passage. On top of striking beauty, the surgery gives the patients immunity to disease as well as unbreakable bones. Who wouldn't want this procedure? Tally's friend, Shay, doesn't. Shay opens Tally's eyes to the evils of this trend. She shows Tally that it isn't a coincidence that all of the "pretties" are shallow and only concerned with partying. The government uses this surgery to brainwash everyone. Along with this revelation, Shay tells Tally of "The Smoke," a secret camp of rebels who have been trying to find a cure for the brainless "pretties." As Tally finds herself caught up in a government conspiracy to find Shay and The Smoke, the story accelerates toward its climax.

Westerfeld is a master of description and action sequences. Each novel in the series starts out with exhilarating adventures, which do not stop until the cliffhanger on the last page, leaving the reader desperate for more. While the plot might seem absurd, it connects with the reader on a very human level. I was simultaneously able to empathize with and abhor Tally for her follies.

Though targeted at middle school pre-teens, the novels still appeal to a wider audience. Westerfeld, like Orwell before him, raises thought-provoking questions as to how much control the government should have over its people and also addresses our culture's obsession with beauty.

A & E

HARVARD SQUARE

NEW FEATURE

In a city so diverse, yet so spread out, people find it hard to get out and actually explore everything Boston has to offer. Well, we did it for you. Each issue this year, the *Argo* A&E Section will highlight a neighborhood, and some gems it has to offer. We want to show you the cafés, boutiques, theaters, and every other cool place you didn't know about, in every part of the city you haven't been. For our first issue, we unleashed our daring reporters on an oldie but goodie- Harvard Square. We hope you enjoy a small sampling of this vibrant area.

Café Pamplona

By Wendy Papakostandini, II & Silvana Vivas, II
Staff Writers

Boston Latin School students seem to love their coffee. But while Starbucks is convenient, haven't the jostling med students, over merchandising and lack of any seating whatsoever started to get on your nerves? For people who want to enjoy their coffee in peace, Café Pamplona is the best choice. A small, hidden business on the intersection of Bow and Arrow Street, a little ways from busy Harvard Square, it's the perfect place to go to get some work done, have a conversation with a friend or just enjoy a coffee and a sandwich to satisfy your appetite.

An excellent place to relax, Pamplona has an outside patio almost hidden between the crevice of two buildings. Its small indoor room gives a comfortable feeling because of its close quarters and low ceiling, without the fuss of decorations all over the place. It still retains its original 1959 decorum, including a black and white checkered floor. Unfortunately, due to the small space, there is no restroom available

GPA: 4.0
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP TO MENSA

for customers; this is just about its only inconvenience.



A LITTLE TASTE OF EUROPE IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

Another plus is that there is full waiter service, so no one ever has to stand in line. The menu, though somewhat limited, is sufficient for those who seek something simple. The items on the menu include a variety of coffees, teas, juices, soft drinks, sandwiches (along with a few salads and soups) and desserts.

Although it opens late—around noon, Café Pamplona stays open until midnight. This funky café has a very European feel. This shouldn't surprise us because its founder, Josefina Yanguas, was a native of Spain. The menu, as well the café in general, is modeled after the cafés in Pamplona, Spain.

If there was one word we could use to describe this café, "classic" would be it. Harvard Square is a busy, hectic place and this café almost seems out of place there. It is neither a very publicized nor commercialized place, which makes a visit all the more worthwhile. It is original and unique and pays homage to an age when getting your caffeine wasn't a lesson in sucking from the corporate teat.

Spotlight

Julia Ryan



By Nicole Tenen, I
Contributing Writer

The ability of a visual artist is partially demonstrated in his or her ability to create using a variety of mediums—Julia's medium of choice happens to be the nearest friend's arm or hand. Chances are if Julia is sitting down, or in some cases, standing, she's doodling—and singing while she does it.

Julia is truly an artist through and through. With two older brothers who both played instruments and created and managed the Wolftones in their years at Boston Latin School, it is no wonder that Julia is musically inclined as well. She began playing viola at the Community Music Center of Boston at the age of seven, and started singing in chorus in elementary school. At BLS, Julia joined Gospel Choir, Honors Chamber Orchestra and defied convention by becoming the first viola in football band (...just kidding, she plays bass drum). She also auditioned for and joined the Wolfettes in ninth grade, and is currently co-director of the a capella group. Julia also participates in the intensive study program at the Community Music Center of Boston on Saturdays, which includes lessons, theory classes and orchestral performances. Julia was also accepted to the Southeast Junior District Orchestra in ninth grade, and the Senior District Orchestra in tenth and eleventh grade.

So clearly Julia's not much of a musician, but she is a mildly talented visual artist. Even in third grade, when I first met Julia, she was constantly drawing figures, clothing, and designs on numerous scraps of paper. She is currently enrolled in AP Art, a two-year commitment during eleventh and twelfth grade at BLS. Julia has also worked at the Cloud Foundation, an urban youth art organization, as a Teen Visual Arts Curator since junior year, curating art shows at places such as the State House, the Hynes Convention Center, and, of course, Cloud Place.

With her vast amount of free time, Julia busies herself with minimal other activities. An avid Girl Scout, one may often see Julia at Forest Hills belting out jingles advertising Girl Scout cookies (only four dollars a box!). Julia is also a counselor at Chimney Corners Camp, a summer camp she herself used to attend as a child. She has even participated in the BLS Science Fair every year of high school. If not recognizable in these various hobbies, Julia is recognizable in the halls by her signature walk.

Due to all these serious activities and multiple talents, one might think Julia would be distracted and solemn. On the contrary, Julia is and has always been one of the kindest and happiest people I have ever known. Even throughout a very difficult personal experience during her sophomore year, Julia is always one to be seen skipping down the halls to hug a friend with a smile on her face. Or pointing out the cutest babies in public. Or knitting. While many may be rightfully jealous of this multitasking, kind young woman, it's perfectly natural. As another good friend has said, "It's all in the walk."

Brattle Theater

By Robert Fitzpatrick, V
Staff Writer

A visit to the movie theater is quite a common activity among students, but sometimes there just isn't a good movie out. You might end up watching one of your favorite movies at home and wishing it was in theaters again. Cinematic reruns are commonly seen as bygones of the drive-in age, but in our day there is a theater that shows classic movies every day and in every genre from comedy, to horror, to western, to noirs, to dramas and to oldies that will never truly get old, no matter how far into their graves the actors are. The great thing is that it is just across

the Charles, in Harvard Square.

The Brattle Theater is very inconspicuous; in fact you can't even see it at first glance. It's one of those places that you need to know about, because no one would think to walk down a flight of stairs into a mildly sketchy alleyway, especially after dark, when most movies are played. Although the Brattle might seem like the kind of theater your mother wouldn't want you to go to, it's actually a relatively popular place because it plays films that franchise theaters wouldn't touch for fear of shrinking coffers.

The Brattle Theater is no ordinary movie theater. While the majority of its reels are old classics, it screens newer mov-

ies from time to time. Just a few weeks ago, it had a horror-night double feature, showing *28 Days Later* and *28 Weeks Later* back to back. They will occasionally play about an hour and a half, sometimes even two hours, of solely Bugs Bunny cartoons. Whatever your taste in flicks may be, the Brattle will eventually satisfy it.

There is a little down side though. There are no previews, so you definitely have to be on time, and you must also remember that there is only one screen in a relatively small room, so you need to get there extra early for more popular films.

For more information and showtimes, visit <http://www.brattlefilm.org/brattlefilm/index.html>.

Horoscopes

By Oliver Anderson, I
A&E Editor

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
The alignment of Jupiter says that Russian Roulette is just not your game.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Be careful what you eat. That discount, Chinese-made silverware has lead in it. So does your computer, Barbie dolls, Nike Dunks, and wheat. Globalization sucks, man.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
You will feel a great sense of relief when you admit to yourself that your new computer is simply a \$1200 porn machine.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
A new experience awaits you when that

nervous tick in your foot is misinterpreted in a Logan bathroom.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
This Halloween learn to conquer your fears. Candy is delicious plus or minus the razor blades.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Remember to brush your teeth tonight, especially since you're going to be lost in the woods for the next three weeks. Sorry, we probably should have mentioned that last part first.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Using phrases like "BRB" and "LMAO" in everyday conversation will backfire when U.S. Immigration mistakes it for a foreign language and deports you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
You don't even want to know. Seriously. It's that bad.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)
Try to accept the good with the bad when you find spider eggs in your Lucky Charms.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22)
You are special because of your ability to rationalize things. Right? Yeah, that's gotta be it. Right?

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Avoid Japan, as T-pain will reveal himself to be a robot and destroys the Tokyo skyline. Don't even act like you're surprised.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Your vocabulary will vastly improve when you search for a phrase synonymous with "I burned down your house," but more positive, you know?

A & E TV blurbs

By DENISE NGUYEN, II
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

LOVED BY ALL

Heroes Season 2: Mondays at 9 on NBC

The second season picks up four months after the cliffhanger end to the first in Kirby Plaza. This season, two fugitives, Maya and Alejandro, are trying to cross the border to avoid arrest for a crime possibly related to her superpower.

Meanwhile, Claire and her father are hiding in California where she meets a guy named West. And divorced Officer Parkman's daughter is suddenly having nightmares. Hiro is in feudal Japan, where he meets up with his childhood hero, Takezo Kensei. Nathan, on the other hand, has become an outcast, distraught about his brother Peter's disappearance. And where is Peter? He's in Ireland with amnesia after his kidnapping by gang member Ricky. But Peter doesn't have it all that bad. After all, he's developing a relationship with Ricky's sister, Caitlyn. It looks like love is in the air for our heroes.

SPORT-FANS

Friday Night Lights Season 2: Fridays at 9 on CBS

Viewers are in for twists and turns this season. So far, trouble is brewing in everybody's paradise, even for the "it" couple Matt and Julie. Coach Taylor has just come back from a coaching job in Austin and his wife has given birth to another baby girl. Landry becomes Tyra's "knight in shining armor" after he accidentally kills her stalker and Lyla gives up cheerleading to join a Christian group after her parents divorce.

NERD-LOVERS

Chuck Season 1: Mondays at 8 on NBC

What happens when a lonely employee of the Nerd Herd (think Geek Squad) named Chuck accidentally downloads an important government data file

into his brain? The National Security Agency and Central Intelligence Agency begin to follow him around. His previous bland life quickly transforms into one of helping the government fight off assassins and defuse bombs. And that's not all: the CIA agent that's responsible for keeping an eye on Chuck is an attractive blonde. She pretends to be his girlfriend while his family and friends are thrilled to see that Chuck finally has a date.

the CW

Miss The OC? From the creator of The OC comes this hit show based on the novel by Cecily von Ziegesar. While The OC takes place in the West Coast of California, Gossip Girls is located in the Upper East Side of New York City, home to the rich and famous. Blake Lively plays Serena, who comes home from a mini "vacation" to find out that her best "frienemy" Blair (Leighton Meester) is



THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF "PLEASE, GOD, NO MORE PIE!"

have secrets. Susan is pregnant, Bree is pretending to be, Lynette has been going through chemotherapy for her cancer but doesn't want pity and Gaby is having a secret affair with her ex, Carlos, while Edie's using blackmail to keep him in her clutches.

Pushing Daisies Season 1: Wednesdays at 8 on ABC

Pushing Daisies is a bittersweet modern fairytale about a pie maker named Ned (Lee Pace) who happens to have the ability to bring the dead back to life by a mere touch. What's the catch? Well, if he touches the person again he or she will die permanently. Also, if he revives a person for more than one minute, someone else nearby will die. Ned and his friend Emerson take advantage of the gift to bring murder victims back to life, asking them who killed them and then "killing" them again to collect the rewards.

But when Ned revives his childhood sweetheart, Charlotte "Chuck," and tells her that he loves her, even after they learn that the feeling is mutual, they are unable to touch each other. The "Pie-lot" episode kicked off with an astounding audience of 27 million. Everything about the imaginative show is sweet, especially the fruitful setting and the loveable characters.

SHOWS COMING SOON

One Tree Hill Season 5: TBA

Wondering why One Tree Hill isn't on? Season five is going to start in January. The story will pick up five years later when the cast is out of college and James, Jr. is five years old.

24 Season 7: TBA

24 will also be returning in January. There will be a new cast of characters because Jack is moving to a different location where he won't have to live under an alias. This time, he won't be working with bombs. Instead, he will be helping people come to terms with their dark pasts.

still dating Nate (Chance Crawford). After Blair finds out the real reason for Serena's sudden departure (dealing with a certain love triangle), let's just say that things aren't quite as pleasant for the former prima donna. It seems like the fabulous life isn't all that simple.... Tune in and figure out who Gossip Girl, the show's mysterious narrator, really is.

Desperate Housewives Season 4: Sundays at 9 on ABC

The housewives are back again. And for a startling new plot twist, one of the suburbanites is hiding something. In fact, all the women on Wisteria Lane

Beauty and the Geek Season 4: Tuesdays at 8 on the CW

Love reality game shows dealing with social experiments? You'll love Beauty and the Geek, produced by Aston Kutcher. In previous seasons, nine geeky guys were paired with nine beauties and the couples embarked on challenges while trying to understand each others' social lives. There's a twist this season, though: the "beauty" is the male and the "geek" is the girl.

CHICK FLICKS

Gossip Girls Season 1: Wednesday at 9 on

Stolen Art Takes the Screen

By RACHEL TRIPP, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"What is more important, a work of art or a human life?" This is the question discussed in *The Rape of Europa*, a riveting documentary based on Lynn H. Nicholas's award-winning bestseller. Unlike most movies about World War II, this one does not explore the people affected by the war, but the art of the countries that Hitler invaded. *The Rape of Europa* delves into everything from how the Nazis' stolen art was found years later in homes, caves and various secret storage units, to the art-related military strategies that got it there. The film also examines how art became a trophy for the Nazis, the tangible evidence of how they intended to destroy entire cultures along with their people, and the Germans' different attitudes toward cities like Krakow (saved because of its German art) and cities such as Warsaw (obliterated for its Slavic—mostly Russian and Polish—taste in art).

In a plan to wipe out not only the people Hitler disapproved of, but also their countries' most precious works of art, Nazis seized an estimated one-fifth of the known art of Europe, including works

such as Leonardo da Vinci's *Lady With an Ermine*. While some of these prizes ended up in the homes of various Nazi leaders, others were stored in underground caves and warehouses where they were intended to lie until the building of the Linz museum envisioned by Hitler and meant to house the greatest works of art in the world as a tribute to him.

The film also covered the unintentional destruction of art and monuments by Allied bombers. When a country received word of an oncoming invasion, thousands of people congregated at the great museums of their

countries, working around the clock in order to relocate an estimated 400,000 pieces of art from the Louvre and other museums. They also save European symbols of art that were not in museums, such as the architecture, statues and fixtures in the cities. The film plays particular tribute to the Monuments Men, American military art experts, whose job was to strategize military operations in such a way that spared a country's art museums and monuments as much as possible and to find and return stolen art.

Their work was vital; in the words of a Florentine woman, it represented "the victory of beauty over horror."

The work of the Monuments Men is still being carried out, as art is still being returned to the children of the families whose possessions were stolen. Many families have received their Torah crowns back and were undyingly grateful to those who brought them back. Unfortunately, for other heirs, some of the art was never found or has ended up in museums throughout Europe, now deemed national property. One woman, the granddaughter of the woman pictured in *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer*, spent many years in a long legal battle in which she finally acquired her family's heirloom, considered by some Austrian Jews to be "our Mona Lisa."

Unfortunately, there are still hundreds of thousands of paintings that have never been found, and may never be seen again. Many masterpieces by Van Gogh, da Vinci and other great artists of the time are lost. Art historians and museum directors are hoping that they will surface within the next generation.



THE NAZIS PIONEERED THE FIVE FINGER DISCOUNT

NEW FEATURE: ASK THE ARGO

The brilliant minds of A&E want to open up a section of our publication to answer questions and provide advice to our adoring public. Send your problems, complaints and questions to blsargo.ae@gmail.com.

GPA: 3.5

STILL HAS TIME FOR FRIENDS

THE FUN PAGE

Crossword

1 a b s
5 i e o r b i t m
6 s b
7 e
8 i
9 s a
10 p o t t e r t
11 e e l
12 p e t i t
13 f
14 l
15 e
16 r a z r
17 e
18 s
19 t o s s e d
20 v a
21 s p i n e
22 b
23 c
24 f r e d
25 e
26 e
27 i
28 s
29 s a m
30 j
31 b
32 i n t e r p o l
33 r
34 i
35 n e g e r i
36 d u n k i n
37 r
38 g
39 y
40 r
41 m e
42 d a n d r u f f

- Across**

 - 1. One of the Columbinus shooters
 - 8. Controversial CBS show
 - 9. Cleans a dirty mouth--no matter what
 - 11. Last Horcrux
 - 13. Now reduced to dwarf classification
 - 16. A country devoid of maps, according to Miss S.C.
 - 18. Teacher in BLS '06 musical (abbr.)
 - 20. Roman salad
 - 21. Passageway for nervous system
 - 24. This Weasley twin felt "hole-y"
- Down**

 - 2. BLS Teacher who moved to Peru
 - 26. NBC Equivalent of 'Geek Squad'
 - 27. Brass instrument
 - 29. He does not like green eggs and ham
 - 33. International police and NYC band
 - 35. Voldemort's pet reptile
 - 37. America runs on this
 - 39. First brand of basketball shoes
 - 40. Palmer's significant other
 - 41. "You can put the blame on ____" - Akon
 - 42. Dead skin cells on scalp
- 3. Turning point in Revolutionary War
 - 4. Speed-read, also a type of milk
 - 5. The North Star
 - 6. The formal term for a nun
 - 7. This rock band's songs always follow BLSTV
 - 10. Shaved her head, lost her kids
 - 12. A Starbuck's medium
 - 13. Astrology sign: The Fish
 - 14. The amount of flats in Ab Major
 - 15. Dangerous chemical in tap water
 - 17. They tried to make her go here, she said, "No, no, no."
 - 19. Claire's "super" new guy
 - 22. This comedy troupe shares its name with dangerous reptile
 - 23. Location of '08 Olympics
 - 25. Captain of the Argo
 - 28. Hamilton is to Burr as Whittington is to ____
 - 30. Evasive cartoon mouse
 - 31. Three mice of nursery rhymes
 - 32. Current president of Russia
 - 34. World domination board game
 - 36. 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winner
 - 38. Controversial Beatles song (abbr.)

Sudoku

EASY

1	5			6			7	3
8		7				6		
		2				1		
7			3		5			6
2			1		6			4
		3				2		
	2	5				3		1
9	7			2	3		6	5

DIABOLICAL

1								3
		9				8	6	1
					6			
		7	6		9	2		
	8		2		5		4	
		6	4		8	1		
			8					
6	4	2				5		
9								2

BUSINESS / TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Welcome, readers, to the new Business and Technology Section of the *Argo*.

As you know, sections are made so readers can locate what they want to read easier. Consequently, as corporations are booming in the local area and as technology becomes a central facet of daily life, more and more articles are

being written about them. Therefore, we wanted to create a new part of the paper devoted solely to it. As a new section, our intent is to focus on the major technological advances in society and how they pertain to students. We will include new and emerging technological developments and new developments within existing technology. Our overall

goal is to provide you with articles that discuss the technology that will affect us as students. Additionally, with more and more big corporations moving to Boston, we would like to provide money management insights and the expanding job opportunities for students to you. Most importantly, we want this section to be interesting. We plan on including only

articles that we believe will appeal to the mass, not just on the topics that interest us. Also, we are completely open to new ideas. If you have any interest in writing for the section or would simply like to suggest a possible article topic, please email us at blsargo.tech@gmail.com. We hope you enjoy this first preview edition of our section.

Massachusetts Gets Googled

BY JINZHAO WANG, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With so many prestigious and high-tech institutions located in and around the area, Massachusetts has long been a state that is highly regarded for its abundant opportunities. According to the *Boston Business Journal*, one big company will possibly be adding its name to this illustrious list of corporations. Google, the internet super-company serving over five million users daily, is expanding into Massachusetts.

Originally founded in Mountain View, California in 1998, the company's two founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, have expanded the internet giant to nearly 14,000 employees. The company has been growing so fast that it is often referred to as the "irresistible force" or the "immovable object." In fact, the business has become so prevalent that the term "to google" is now

synonymous with "to search." At last the corporation, regaled by the *Fortune* magazine as the number one place to work, has its all-seeing eyes set on Massachusetts. The company has a fundamental attitude that creates an unique work ambience. Google's mission statement is "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful." And yet,

while driven by this impressive goal, its motto is still that "work should be challenging and the challenge should be fun." An interesting fact is that the CEOs of the company reduced their salaries to \$1.00 after their initial public opening in 2004. (But don't worry, they're

still making billions based on stocks.) Additionally, Google implements many different employee incentives to attract and keep its workers satisfied. Such encouragements include the addition of the Google Founders' Award, which offers higher salaries to new employees.

Perhaps the greatest lure for employees is the "Googleplex." The working quarters of Google really has a homey

daily lives on this search engine. It is possible that we might be able to work for the same exact company in the near



GOOGLE'S SIGNATURE SITE



GOOGLERS HARD AT WORK

atmosphere. The lobbies are decorated lavishly with lava lamps and pianos. Employees are offered benefits such as haircuts, massages and a commodious lounge where they can play pool. During breaks, workers enjoy three free gourmet meals and can play volleyball. In fact, Google even offers benefits to the children of employees, giving toys to the youngsters.

We spend hours upon hours of our

future. Google might offer internship opportunities for college and even high school students. Therefore, any students who aspire to work in computers, technology, engineering, management, finance or administration after college no longer have to travel all the way to Silicon Valley to try to find a technology job. Now they can integrate into the new Googleplex location here in Boston.

West Coast Meets East

BY JINZHAO WANG, III
& RACHEL PRIMÉ, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & STAFF WRITER

Another institution deeply ingrained in West Coast culture, the Hollywood movie studio, is moving to the East Coast. As you can see from the previous sentence the word Hollywood, that little section of LA, is almost synonymous with movie studios. Whenever you think of your favorite actors, you always envision them strolling down the Sunset Strip. This geographical prejudice, however, may soon be shed, as a new movie studio will be built in Plymouth within the next five years. Yes, that is right—a Plymouth movie studio.

It really comes as no surprise that Massachusetts is getting its own movie studio. In recent years two Oscar winning movies, *The Departed* and *Mystic River*, have been made in Boston. Over the years, there has also been the continual presence of the Farley brothers filming in the area, most notably with *Fever Pitch*. New tax incentives to film have significantly increased interest in filming in the Bay State. Before legislation made it financially feasible to

shoot movies in Massachusetts, Louisiana was actually a more desirable state for movie making. Now that our state has become competitive in the film industry, the Good News Holdings movie studio is taking notice.

schools and colleges in order to produce internship opportunities for students. In addition, there is a possibility that Good News will establish a teaching program run by Hollywood professionals—so

the entertainment industry; instead they can struggle right at home. Earl Lestz, the retired president of Paramount Pictures who currently works for Good News, believes that "we could have the greatest film education program in the world right here, if we do this right." Students who would normally go to college on the West Coast in order to pursue a career in the dramatic arts could stay in-state and get the same quality instruction.

Not only would this be a great opportunity for aspiring actors and actresses, but the idea of having celebrities in the state is quite exciting. Besides greatly influencing the entertainment industry here in Massachusetts, the culture that comes along with Hollywood and high profile celebrities will find its way into East Coast society. That means much more designer fashion and (hopefully) better nightlife. The movie industry in the states flourished on the West Coast and continues to thrive; having that success here on the East Coast would be phenomenal. Can you imagine Simon Cowell telling



COULD THIS BE THE FUTURE FOR THE HOME OF PLYMOUTH ROCK?

Good News Holdings also plans to create alliances with Massachusetts high

struggling actors do not have to fly six hours across the country to break into

American Idol hopefuls "Congratulations! We'll see you in Plymouth?"

BUSINESS / TECHNOLOGY

How to Become a Millionaire

BY JAMES FITZPATRICK, I
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

I knew you would have to read this article. Who would not want to become a millionaire? But I have to be straight with you: if you are looking to a high school news publication for money-making advice, your odds of becoming filthy rich are slim. But there are many ways to get a stranger's hard-earned money into your wallet, and in honor of the new Business/Technology section, I am going to teach you how. And what better way than to use real life examples—a first for me—to support my argument?

Package Something Useless and Call It a Fad: Ever heard of Gary Dahl? The answer is you probably haven't. In fact, you may not have even heard of his product the Pet Rock, but chances are your parents or anyone who still dresses like John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever* has. You see, this guy was a true genius. One day in 1975, Dahl had the fantastic idea of taking pebbles from his yard, gluing googly eyes to them and selling them as pets. The American public told him just how idiotic his idea was by purchasing zillions of these. And when the fad started to wear off, he simply put them in neat little boxes with a caring-for-our-pet instruction manual, and America kept on buying. In only six months, he had made a million dollar selling rocks. Extraordinarily, that is a fact. This guy could write the book on selling a product and in an unusual second

stroke of genius he did. It's called *Advertising for Dummies*. If you are uncreative or have a stockpile of something, here is your best shot at making a million.

Pretend You Care: If you pull this one off, you are going to be making a lot more than millions. Here is a group of people that all have one thing in common: Maury Povich, Jerry Springer, Dr. Phil and Oprah. Aside from all being accomplished unicyclists, this coterie of television personalities all pretend that they care. They pretend that they care about you, your relationships, your feelings and, in Jerry Springer's case, they pretend to care that your gay lover, who happens to be a midget, is cheating on you with your mother, who actually happens to be your uncle. If you ever happen to find yourself pouring your heart out on one of these shows, just remember that the hosts do

not sympathize with you; they just happen to have a front row seat to the freak show that is you. If you do not believe me just look into Maury's shiftless eyes, as he utters his favorite sentence: "You are the father." The good news is this job is not very hard to do: just look at Dr. Phil. All



THEY DON'T HAVE MOUTHS SO THEY CAN'T TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE WASTING MONEY

he has to do is fire off some memorized, generic line about being faithful to your lover. Then, instantly every housewife in the studio audience surges in a devoted cheer, while each secretly wishes that he

would leave Terry and rescue them from their messy kids and lazy husbands in his warm embrace. If you can do this, the payoff is somewhere in the neighborhood of not only making millions, but having guest spots on *Entertainment Tonight*, creating your own book club and being touted as the most powerful woman in the world (gender regardless). If your looks are more suitable for the radio, I will highlight one more option for you.

Radically Shake Up People's Beliefs Without Any Qualification To Do So: Do you know the author of *Digital Fortress*? How about *Deception Point*? You do know who wrote *The Da Vinci Code* though. Well, Dan Brown happens to have authored all three of those books and that is exactly the point. Point blank: you want to play with the big boys and roll in the dough, shatter peoples' most sacred thoughts. Write a book proclaiming that wrestling is actually scripted, that the movie *Gigli* has its moments of true artistic vision or even that Michael Jackson has never had plastic surgery. Writing a book is admittedly a bit harder than the aforementioned options, but along with your wealth you will be a member of the literati.

Unfortunately, The Man is only giving this phenomenal new section two pages, so I have to stop writing now. But you can buy my full book at IAmBetterThanYou.com. And don't forget to repay your old pal from the *Argo*, when you are living the good life.

iTeach with iPhones

BY NICHOLAS HOANG, IV
& ALEXANDER CHEUNG, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

In 2001, Apple released a novel gadget that has had a profound impact on our daily lives. This device was the iPod. It revolutionized the way we think about music. Recently, the technology giant has taken everything up a notch with the advent of "multi-touch sensing." These new gizmos—released just in time for the imminent holiday season—including the iPhone and the newly released iPod Touch, are cutting-edge pieces of technology that can provide endless entertainment; more interestingly, they can assist students in their education as well.

The iPhone is a technophile's dream. The highly anticipated electronic was unveiled on June 29, 2007. This multipurpose "super" phone includes a 8 GB flash drive, 3.5 inch widescreen multi-touch display, a virtual keyboard, a 2.0 megapixel camera, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth technology. The most remarkable aspect of this device is that it can contain all of these functions in the palm of one's hand. It is only 4.5 inches long, 2.4 inches wide and 0.46 inches thick. Apple's revolutionary "multi-touch sensing" enables users to search simply by gliding their fingers, permitting easier and quicker navigation. Additionally, users may surf the web and watch videos.

With all of these capabilities, it is not surprising that the iPhone has had a profound impact on our lives. As high school students, we are all familiar with the term "carpal tunnel syndrome," referring to the laborious and tedious nature of typing on a keyboard. The iPhone can take the tedium out of note-taking by serving as a mini-computer, allowing us to type our notes without carrying around a bulky laptop. Students can take down electronic notes neatly and efficiently. A

notable faculty member described it as a combination of popular technology and tried methods of presenting ideas.

Furthermore, since it is so portable, it can be used as a personal reference device wherever one goes. As students ourselves, we are the first to admit that we cannot just sit down and write an essay right away. Sometimes, it takes a long time to brainstorm, maybe even days. Therefore, the iPhone is a great tool to overcome writer's block. Its compact size allows users to take it wherever they go. Whenever an idea pops up in our minds, we can immediately start writing on our iPhone instead of waiting to get home to do so. This allows for rapid and efficient brainstorming.

Finally, as we move on into a more electronically advanced society, more and more of our education is going to rely on technology. Technological amenities such as projectors already play a major role in our learning. In many colleges and universities around the country, lectures are sometimes broadcasted through podcasts, which can be downloaded by students online. In fact, in recent years Duke University in Durham, North Carolina provided its incoming undergraduate freshmen class with free iPods. Students have noted the most popular educational uses of the iPod include recording lectures, taking oral notes and even making electronic flashcards. The iPhone gives students convenient access to all of this academic material.

The iPhone is a device that has more than one use. It has been sold and is still being sold every minute. Recently, the price of the iPhone dropped from \$399 to \$299, making it more affordable for many students. The iPhone can be used in many ways. It can be used to take notes, to watch videos, to use the new stylish way of learning, "iEducation."

Remember, save this article to show your parents come Christmastime. iPhone = Learning.

Ayo, School Tech.

BY ANDREW DESTEFANO, I
SPORTS EDITOR

In honor of the *Argo's* new Business/Technology section, I thought I would examine some of the technological achievements here at Boston Latin School.

One topic that immediately comes to mind is the website limitations on school computers (that isn't the achievement; wait for it). Though the limitations are implemented to prevent children from visiting non-school-related websites, they also prevent teachers from utilizing potential classroom aides such as YouTube.

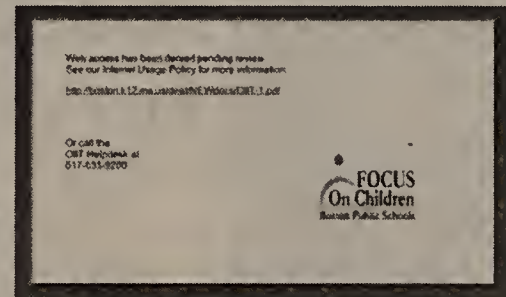
com and other video players on websites such as boston.com and nytimes.com. Last week, for example, my English teacher, Ms. Susan Moran wished to show us the movie trailer for *The Kite Runner* because a group of students were presenting the book version as a project. When we tried to access the trailer, however, the familiar big red screen proclaiming "web access denied" appeared. When I asked Ms. Moran if she thought there should be a method so that teachers could access sites like YouTube, she informed me that such a method already existed. Apparently, there is a hotline for the Boston Public Schools Tech Department (located on the "web access denied" page) that will grant teachers special permission to visit websites they believe are an adequate resource to how it can be helpful in the classroom. It's not exactly a technical achievement of any great magnitude, but the creation of this hotline at least allows teachers to enhance classroom learning without having to go through the finicky Kproxy.

The piece of technology that creates the most buzz around Boston Latin is the overhead projector. Often times, these projectors can cause our teachers and students grief with their unreliability. So in order to discover the root of this problem, I went to Boston Latin's resident Renaissance man, Mr. Joel Ramos. When I asked him about our current projector system, he said, "Our current system is as effective as it is because of our great tech staff, lead by Director Catherine Meany. Although our system is not as user-friendly as some of the others we originally wanted to use here (such as Crestron), we do a fantastic job with the resources we have available." He went on to say that "these machines have a lot of wear and tear on them. Light bulbs often need changing and since we have such a large student body, we are a bit understaffed."

As we delve into an age revolving around technology, it seems

Latin School is making strides to advance its teaching methods. There are, of course, schools that have far surpassed us technologically. One such example is the Media and Technology Charter High (MATCH) School, where every student has his or her own laptop. But it's important to keep in mind that our school is only one of the many Boston Public Schools. It may be a long way off until we all have laptops, but that doesn't mean that we're stuck in the Stone Age. Don't worry though, there are already a few plans in the works that we've been asked not to talk about until next issue. So keep a look out.

Although we will always have a traditional education, our principal, Mr. Tera, hopes to make our school more technologically savvy. And if the beginning of her administration is any indication, I'm sure she will succeed.



A FAMILIAR DISHEARTENING MESSAGE

Spotlight Dan Duggan



BY PETER CRAPO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first glance, it is easy to judge Dan Duggan. Most just see a 260-pound giant sporting a leather jacket and then assume a joke is forthcoming—and they assume correctly. But Dan is much more than muscles and laughs. He has a great passion for the game of football; he began playing at the ripe old age of eight, harnessing his skills and developing a mean streak that is now infamous throughout the Dual County League. Legend has it that Dan once forced an entire team to forfeit by merely staring at them. But that is not his biggest accomplishment at Boston Latin School. He has been a member of the football program for five years and earned a spot on varsity when he was only a sophomore. He has since focused on fine-tuning his in-game skills and destroying every obstacle in his path (including the Boston Latin weight room).

Not many people know, however, that though Dan walks through the hallways seeing everyone flee from his path, there is a deeper, more sensitive man that lies beneath all that muscle. I myself have witnessed this often overshadowed side of Dan. Once as I was passing through Dan's hometown of Hyde Park, I saw a large crowd gathered near a tree. As I drew near, I saw a shirtless Dan Duggan halfway up the tree rescuing a baby kitten no bigger than his hand. Then as I saw him climb down and hand the kitten to a little girl, I wondered if this could be the same Dan that I knew. But when I saw the little girl's eyes light up with joy as Dan gave the kitten to her, I understood: Dan's heart is nothing but pure gold.

During his time here at the Latin School, Dan has been much more than a jock. He is a leader not only on the football field but also in the classroom, helping many students in the subjects that he excels at. He is a phenomenal writer, as he received straight A's last year in his AP Writing class. He has a way with words unlike any other human I've ever encountered. He has been a master of the English language since sixth year, winning BLS an award in an essay contest. In fact, his picture was once displayed in the sixth hallway but has since been taken down, which I personally believe is an absolute travesty.

While the college process is in full stride for seniors, there is no doubt that football is in Dan's future. He receives multiple letters from colleges every week and he fully intends to play wherever he goes. He wants to take his game to the next level and I'm sure that he will always look back on his time here at Latin with profound fondness.

But there is only so much that one person can say about such a gentle giant like Dan, so I thought I'd leave you with the quote that Dan lives and dies by: "I feel the students at Boston Latin are all my children and I must watch over and nurture them, so that they might accomplish what I have."

SPORTS

Girls' Soccer Having Solid Season

BY LAUREN ANDERSON, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The best team you've never heard of is not the U.S. women's soccer, but the Boston Latin School girls' varsity soccer. As of late, its record is 2-4-2. Now you may be thinking that this isn't the greatest record in the world, but for us, it is quite an accomplishment. This is in part due to the commitment of the girls on the team. You may have seen them walking down the halls wearing Soccer '07 shirts, reflecting the incredible morale of the team. Whether they are winning or losing, you wouldn't be able to tell by looking at them. They play every second of each game as if it were the most important game, play or moment, of their lives, and this passion truly has a tremendous impact on the team.

This team has been hard at work long before school had even started. Their preseason/tryouts began in mid-August, and they haven't stopped working since. The success of the team is

due in part to the coaches, including Head Coach Charlie Kelly, Goalie Coach Evan Nealson and our very own guidance counselor, Assistant Coach Andrea Encarnacao. The leadership continues with the senior captains, Ally Gittens, Anna Smith and Rose Frank. Although the team is doing very well this year, 13 seniors will graduate and leave the team after this season. This may be the year that girls' soccer needs to go all the way, if they hope to in the near future.

This year the team is focusing on getting to the tournament and is 14 points away from that goal. Hanna Stuart-Shor (II) said, "We are really taking the tournament seriously. We really want to make it, but we will need more wins." Another goal for the girls this year is to beat the school record. Right now, they are only six points behind. The team has accomplished a great feat this season: they beat Wayland for the first time in history.

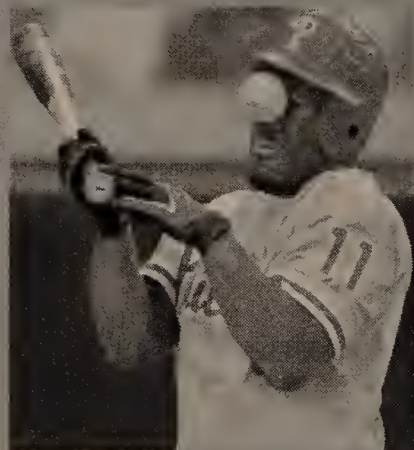
If you ask about the season, the girls would say that they are happy and

proud of themselves, but they would also feel as if they need to get more wins. The team this year looks like it is comprised of the most talented girls compared to past teams. This will help a great deal in allowing them to win the tournament. With the regular season ending on October 26, the girls need to focus on their main goal: more wins.

But what if they don't make it this year? What will be of the team with the departure of the aforementioned 13 seniors? The already existing team has five juniors who will be the only seniors on the team. With 13 empty spaces needing to be filled, the girls from the junior varsity team will be moving up. Keep an eye on this team. Their home games are played at Millennium Park in West Roxbury and the remaining games of the season include those against Bedford, Westboro, Tyngsboro, Lincoln-Sudbury, Acton-Boxboro and finally Weston. Please go out and show your support to your soon-to-be 2007 girls' soccer champions!

Picture This: Sports Gone Wrong

CAPTIONS BY OLIVER ANDERSON (I)



"EYES ON THE BALL. EYES ON THE BALL. EYES ON THE BALL. DAMN..."



SOMEHOW WE GET THE FEELING THAT BELICHECK JUST ISN'T TAKING THE PUNISHMENT SERIOUSLY.



CONFUSED, THEY REALIZED THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT A DIFFERENT FOUL BALL



SURE, HE WAS WILLING TO TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM, BUT THIS JUST WASN'T FAIR.



SURPRISINGLY, HE DIDN'T ENJOY BALLS IN HIS FACE.

Boys' Soccer Hopeful for Playoffs

BY AIDAN GRIFFIN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Over the years, Boston Latin School boys' soccer has not enjoyed overwhelming success. Until last season, when they defeated Newton South, the team had lasted over 100 games in the Dual County League without managing a single victory. Even with the loss of seven seniors after last season's revival, boys' soccer has gotten off to its best start in memory, winning its first two games and having a 3-6-2 record to date. "Soccer at school has always been fun, but now that we are competitive and have a solid chance to win every game, it's exhilarating and I wake up every morning absolutely pumped to get on the field and beat some suburban kids," says Captain Steve O'Connell (I). The team's confidence is overwhelming. "We know that any time we step on the field, we can win," he adds.

All of the starters, the 10 senior members included, have elevated their play and inspired the rest of the team. "Coach Houghton has really gotten us into

the game and we really understand what we have to do at each moment and knowing what to do has really helped us get better and be competitive," says dominant and bruising defender Ariel Prado (I). Scoring goals is what wins soccer games, and thanks to the exceptional play of Rafael Santos (I) up top and prolific scorer Peter Rice (I), the team has been able to grab leads allowing the play of the impenetrable defense to shut down opponents.

The DCL is one of the most competitive and demanding in the state. Suburban schools with seemingly unlimited funding have always had an easy time playing against our team. But promising athletes have continued to come out for the team early on, as many current players have been on the team since freshman year. The experience of the team members and the dedication with which they play is what has allowed them to take advantage of the inexperience of new varsity players from other schools.

After going 2-0 the hopes of the boys' soccer team were through the roof. Some cocky seniors were commenting on

the possibility of an undefeated season. Although those unreasonable aspirations were quickly dispelled by the more realistic players, the outlook was still good. In the month since, the team has had a little more trouble dealing with the meat of their schedule, facing Concord-Carlisle and Westford Academy multiple times, both of whom are ranked in the top 20 in Massachusetts. They've still only managed a win and two ties in nine chances, but they're very enthusiastic about the remainder of their games. "I can see us going down the stretch and winning five of seven with maybe some ties thrown in there and we could potentially make the playoffs. We have the talent, and the team is confident. If we play the way we all know we can, I don't see why we should lose much more," said confident senior sweeper Matt Monarch.

Ever since tryouts in August, this team has been something special. Mike Melo, a junior with varsity aspirations, exclaimed in alarm during a preseason run: "I can't slow down!" In many's opinion, the rest of the team can't slow down either.

SPORTS

XC Hopes to Step It Up

BY ALYSSA GRANARA, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The cross country team has begun another season and it is setting its expectations high. The team is ready to improve upon its previous times and prepare to qualify for some of the bigger meets. After losing many seniors from last year's team, cross country doesn't have that many runners, which makes it more difficult for them to win meets even if they place well. When asked about his team, however, Coach Mike Meagher expressed a lot of confidence in them and believes that they will be very successful this season, stating, "I think they're great. Like all sports, we are in a tough league, but I think they're great." Captains Calvin Atkinson (I) and Andrew DeStefano (I) are working hard to keep the team focused and motivated. Atkinson says, "Even though the team is not doing well in the standings, we are taking every step necessary in order to improve BLS's running program. Before indoor track starts, myself and the other captains hope to increase our recruiting by visiting homerooms of seventh and eighth graders."

The season started off decently

with the girls' varsity defeating Bedford in its first meet. As Coach Meagher said, the team is in an extremely tough league facing some competitors who have been ranked in the top 20 of Division 1 this season. The league includes high-ranking teams on the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association's cross country poll for the 2007 season. Some of these teams are Lincoln-Sudbury (girls team ranked No. 1 and boys team ranked No. 17), Westford (girls team ranked No. 5) and Concord-Carlisle (girls team ranked No. 6). The MSTCA is a group of over 300 coaches who run some of the major cross country meets in the state.

This season the cross country team is focusing on exceeding its previous speeds in the 5k (or 3.1 mile) races that it competes in and on placing well in its meets and hopefully the league championships. Conrad Enis (II) explained, "We focus on whole workouts, fast-paced distance runs, and track workouts so that we can be our fastest in the races." He also added: "The team hopes to just do our best and to place well among ourselves." To accomplish this, the team practices five days a week and runs at least five miles during practice. Cross country requires a lot of dedica-

tion because the team runs as a whole, not individually, and can only improve if everyone on the team contributes. This year's team members have that dedication and is ready to show their hard work at their meets. The team is also looking forward to competing in some of the league invitationals. Coach Meagher is anticipating the MIAA Class Championships, which will take place on November 10.

The team includes several seasoned cross country veterans, such as Atkinson and DeStefano and girls' captains Erin Scannel (I), Isara Kreiger (I) and Angie Franceschelli (I), who know what it takes to win and the work that they have to put in; what the team lacks in size, it makes up for in determination.

The team runs on a set course and each race is anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes long. The courses consist of many different elevations and turns and require a lot of perseverance from its runners. Their home meets are at Franklin Park on Wednesdays and Saturdays for anyone who wants to go check out the team or is interested in joining next season and wants to see what cross country is all about.

Making a Splash

BY JIAYUAN WANG, III
& ARJUN VARGA, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

There are currently 47 members on the Boston Latin School girls' swim team with the two senior captains, Kathleen Grueter and Madeleine McDonough. The Latin School team participates in state competitions for high schools and has meets with local schools about twice a week. Every Monday through Friday, the girls' swim team goes to the Richard J. Murphy School in the afternoon to practice, or have meets, from 3:30 to 5:00. The girls on the team all agree that even though they get back to their homes at about 6:30, or even later, the meets with other schools are really intense and exciting.

We visited the Boston Latin girls' swim team on September 28 during its meet with Mount Alvernia and interviewed some of the girls on the team and even some parents. Jane Murphy, a mother of a member on the team, told us that "it's a great sport for the kids," and added that "the kids should be able to finish their homework when they

come home, so I'm not worried at all."

During the meet, the Latin School team warmed up for about 20 minutes, with a combination of freestyle and butterfly strokes, and the girls did a cheer for Boston Latin before the competition. For all 11 events, the Boston Latin team came in first with no one finishing last. From the results of the meet, it's clear that the Mount Alvernia team needs to train much harder if it ever wants to defeat Boston Latin's.

"We are a tight group," commented Mona Cheng Huang (III). "The girls on the swim team are very supportive of each other, and we are going to do well this year. Even though some of the seniors from last year left, many others are stepping up and taking their places, for the better."

The Boston Latin School girls' swim team is at a huge disadvantage because the girls must win each race by a large margin in order to compensate for their lack in diving points. "Unfortunately, we do not have divers so we are at a disadvantage. We out swam Natick, but unfortunately, we lost because they got the diving points since we didn't

have any divers," said Emily Rodil (I). All of the divers left the swim team last year. Despite this minor setback, the swim team still remains an optimistic group, even though the girls are hoping for more team members.

"We are awesome!" exclaimed the captain of the swim team, McDonough.

Sectionals are a type of postseason for swimmers who qualify. All the players want to make the sectionals but, unfortunately, some of them are fast enough. After the sectionals come the championships, where swimmers compete for individual merits and become legends.

"We will make the coach proud. Even though sectionals are hard to qualify for, we all try our very best," said Kaitlyn Cavaleri (I).

Right now the girls' swim team is in the middle of the season, and it will end its season with a mass meet on November 1 against Acton-Boxborough. Acton has one of the best swim teams in Massachusetts, so it will be a difficult match to win, but the team is definitely up to the challenge.

Clubbing Is What They Do Best

BY ELIZABETH COLEMAN, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Latin School golf team has not won a game in three years, at least not until this season. On September 28 they won their first game. Most of you who are reading this right now are probably thinking, "If this team hasn't won a game in three years then they can't be that good," but that single victory shows that the Boston Latin golf team is improving. Soon everybody will read about how it came back from its dry spell. Hopefully, next year we can report that their comeback resembles the Red Sox's in 2004. But before we start thinking about next year let's review what has happened so far.

This year's team consists of 15 players led by captains Sam Ghannon (II) and Greg Keegan (II). The coach is none

other than our beloved history teacher Mr. Michael Britto. During the team's game on October 4 against Newton South, I spoke to the coach as well as one of the two captains, Ghannon. The coach expressed his feelings, saying that "This season the team has been improving not only in score but also in spirit." The coach hopes to put "Latin School back onto the competitive map." Mr. Britto and the team aspire to "continue on this path" next year. Their competitive spirit was evident as they had a very solid season, culminating in a win for the first time in three years. Though the final record turned out to be 1-13, it is at least an improvement to build upon for next year.

New team leaders will need to step up as seniors such as Aidan Griffin, Kevin Fischer, Wes Tod and Andrew Connors depart. The coach says that "they have

been major contributors to the game." Next year, this will be a drastic change in the make-up of this team and, as with every new season, it will take time to adjust and develop a team identity. Hopefully, the underclassmen will step it up for the rest of this season and get another "w" in the win category.

Since the golf team is not very well-known, let's talk about the man that holds it together, Coach Britto. A lot of you may not know that the coach also played varsity golf at Boston Latin. A member of the Class of '97, he played golf for three years before he graduated. And like Ghannon and Keegan, Coach Britto was also a captain. He says that he has had "good experience in coaching and hope[s] to get closer to the team." The coach's experience will add to the skill of these young players and might even shape them into the Tiger Woods of tomorrow.

Spotlight Kathleen Grueter



BY ISARA KREIGER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For those of us who don't know Kathleen Grueter, she may appear to be a typical blonde. But for those of us who do know her, it's actually quite the same. We pretend to believe her when she tries to blame it on the massive amounts of chlorine she is exposed to daily, but there is no way that the color of her hair and her lack of common sense are unrelated. I guess you can't really blame her: she was born in Missouri.

Putting aside hair color and home states, however, Kathleen is a fabulous person. She puts 110 percent into everything she does, which is evident from her never-ending swimming accomplishments, her National Honor Society membership here at Boston Latin School and the countless friends who love her dearly.

Swimming out of her mother's womb, Kathleen was in "floaties" before diapers. She had no problem with her three older brothers throwing her into the pool before she could even walk; she knew that was where she was destined to be. She has been a member of the prestigious North Shore Swim Club since she was seven years old and of the swim team at BLS since freshman year. She has been awarded Most Valuable Player (for BLS girls' swimming) and Dual County All Star each year that she's been on the team. For the past three years, she has excelled in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association meets, finishing in the top 10 at States and Sectionals in the 200 m and the 100 fly.

Although Kathleen spends numerous hours a week sharpening her swimming skills and competing in meets, she still manages to excel in school. She arguably proves her chlorine theory with her ridiculously high GPA (some say it is as high as a 6.0) and admirable ability to stay focused on her schoolwork, even while senioritis consumes most of the Latin School population. And if that last paragraph didn't convince you how dedicated she is to swimming, let me inform you that for part of the year, her swim club requires her to practice both before and after school. Yes, that's on the North Shore. Coming into school with goggle marks around her eyes and her hair still sopping wet says only one thing: she's a trooper.

Even more admirably, she never brags about her accomplishments. The only time she mentions swimming is when she is talking about how much she loves her teammates and how much fun she has. It's awesome that she has found something she enjoys doing so much and has the talent for. She finds that perfect balance between possessing a great talent and having that rare fun-loving, positive attitude that brings a laugh and a smile to everyone's day. Kathleen stays true to her favorite quote by Confucius: "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." Well, Kathleen, you're off to a great start.

Boston College Cracks Top 5



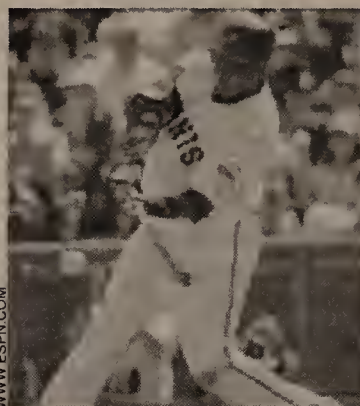
By **MIKE RAMBO, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Boston College has jumped out to its best start since 1942 this season, winning its first six games and ascending to a No. 4 ranking in the Associated Press and Coaches Poll. The cause of this sudden upswing has been because of the remarkable performance of quarterback and Heisman Trophy hopeful Matt Ryan and new Head Coach Jeff Jagodzinski. With Jagodzinski's newly implemented pro-style offense, Ryan has been able to stretch the field and has already put up unbelievable numbers six games into the season. He has had three games with four or more touchdowns, five games with a passer rating over 105 and a completion percentage of 62.6. Ryan's 15 touchdowns equal his 2006 season total. When interviewed after a 55-24 drubbing of a solid Bowling Green squad, Ryan said, "It's a good start. That's all it is, we expect to compete for conference championships and that's the goal. If you do that, bowls take care of themselves." If anyone can take the Eagles to their first National Championship since 1940, soft-spoken Ryan is the guy. He is a big time NFL quarterback prospect who has shown great pocket presence and the composure to lead Boston College to the numerous come-from-behind victories which have earned him the nickname "Matty Ice," which is amusing because Ryan is in college and Natty Ice is a really cheap beer. Ryan has earned a first-round grade from numerous independent scouts like Mel Kiper and is the third-ranked quarterback on my own big board (to be released in its entirety later on this school year) behind Kentucky's André Woodson and Louisville's Brian Broom. Ryan's performance in the first few weeks of the season earned him high praise with a five touchdown and 400-plus yard performance in a victory over then-ranked Wake Forest and a 21-0 thumping of then-ranked Georgia Tech when Ryan threw for 400-plus yards and a touchdown. Against North Carolina State, Army and UMass, however, Ryan had outings where his accuracy was relatively poor; but not all of that was his fault with BC's wide receiving corps dropping a large number of Ryan's passes. His recovery against Bowling Green was remarkable and kept him in the Heisman Race. The BC Eagles will need his A-game to remain unscathed and earn a bid to the Atlantic Coastal Conference championship game this season as their remaining schedule includes games on the road against Virginia Tech, Notre Dame, Maryland and Clemson, as well as home games with vaunted foes Florida State and Miami. If Boston College can bang out a few more wins, this talented and exciting team will garner a bit more respect from a town flooded with successful pro sports teams.

SPORTS

Are Pro Sports Losing Their Credibility?

YES



By **ANDREW LAWRENCE, I**
STAFF WRITER

Should morality be an issue in sports? Most definitely. The athletes of our country are not just plain old good-for-nothing jocks who make tons of money; these athletes are the role models of our society. They not only represent their teams, but also their cultures, their races and, most important of all, their country. They are made out to be model citizens, and their entire lives are tracked and plotted by the media, so it is very hard to believe that any major athlete would be willing to do something to tarnish his or her character and public reception significantly.

Recently, we have been bombarded with different situations in which professional sports stars have exposed themselves to criticism and caused many to question the true relationship between morality and sports. Some of these include the Patriots video cheating scandal, the Barry Bonds steroid accusations and the Michael Vick dog-fighting charges. As I said earlier, these athletes are role models who represent their sports and our entire nation. If some of our greatest and most famous athletes are acting out of line, many people could make false presumptions about all of the athletes from that entire sport.

As many of us know, the Patriots franchise was recently penalized \$250,000 and one or more top draft choices for having violated a long-standing rule about videotaping play-calling of the coaching staff of the opposing team. We may never know for sure if the videotapes actually had any effect on the play of the team, but we do know that these videotapes have created a lot of negative publicity and hatred directed toward the team. Because of these revelations, the Patriots have earned a bad reputation around the league with certain players going so far as to say: "The Patriots live by the rule, 'If you're not cheating you're not trying,'" as San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson said about the Patriots after hearing about the video cheating scandal.

The penalty against the Patriots has raised lots of suspicion as to whether the Patriots were the only team in the league who were videotaping the other sidelines, or if this was a league-wide problem. Many people began to believe that the NFL wanted to make an example of the Patriots, and that in many ways it was a threat to any other team that may have similar practices. In total, it blemished the image of the entire league, and drew negative publicity about the nation's most-watched sport. We must ask ourselves whether or not we think that all of these recent scandals have led to the loss of any part of the fanbase and overall profit of the NFL. In my opinion, many people were affected by this, and it definitely caused a decrease in fan appeal.

One incident that has had an even greater impact on the people of the country is the Michael Vick dog-fighting incident. Recently, Michael Vick, the all-star quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons, pleaded guilty for charges that he hosted numerous dog fights at his home in Newport News, Virginia. Dog fighting is a huge violation of animal rights and this event has created a small uprising of activists protesting Michael Vick and the cruelty of dog fighting. Over the course of a few weeks, Vick went from being one of the NFL's most marketable players, a role model and an example for millions of people, to the league's most hated and despised player, probably in its entire history. His reputation has permanently tarnished the way that the league is viewed by the fans and has created a gap between many different people, including those of different races and fans of the league.

In conclusion, morality has a huge impact in sports and is definitely an important factor to be considered in judging athletes and the credibility of the leagues they are a part of. These sports stars are representing their teams, their hometowns and countless others with their actions on and off the field. By becoming professional athletes, they are agreeing to become role models and representatives for their entire culture; if this is something that they cannot handle, then they are not cut out to be professional stars. The off-field actions of an athlete are just as important as their on-field contributions. As the saying goes, "if you can't stand the heat, get out of kitchen."

NO



By **ALAN CIRCEO, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As we witness the recent scandals in the sports world (Barry Balco, Pacman Jones and his dealings, NBA referees betting on games), some people contend that sports is losing its credibility with the general public and is becoming more and more of a joke in society, with athletes described as prima donnas that are overpaid and think that they are above the rules. Don't get me wrong; the sports world definitely has its bad seeds. I'm not going to write 800 words praising athletes as infallible people who make no mistakes and serve as tremendous role models. I will, however, contend that outside of individual cases, like Barry Bonds and CameraGate, sports hasn't lost its credibility with the majority of the public, and has in fact gained publicity and popularity in recent years.

Baseball has been at the top of the scandals in recent years, and probably the hardest-hit sport by this supposed "lack of credibility." Granted, baseball's steroid situation has been atrocious. Barry Bonds, an admitted steroid user, has broken Hank Aaron's all-time home run record with his 762nd home run coming this past season. The league has other high profile proven steroid users, such as Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield and Rafael Palmeiro. In spite of these instances of cheating, fans have been coming to the MLB games in record numbers. Attendance has increased every year from 2001 to 2007, according to ESPN. If the game has lost so much of its credibility with the general public, then why are so many people still paying over \$100 for a seat and buying outrageously overpriced food? Certainly, if people suspect sports to be a fraudulent enterprise, they wouldn't support it more than they ever have before, coming to and watching the games on TV in droves. In fact, sports fans, especially those of baseball, have a track record of supporting the game in spite of immoral behavior by players and coaches. When Pete Rose was investigated and banned for life by the MLB for gambling on games from 1989 to 1990, people continued to attend baseball games regularly just as they had done before. The Cincinnati ballpark at the time, Riverfront Stadium, continued to fill as it had in the years just before Rose's banishment. Now, just as then, sports has not lost its credibility with most of the general public.

Our own New England Patriots have recently had their credibility called into question as well. A few weeks ago the New York Jets apprehended a cameraman filming their defensive signals between the coaches and the players on the field. It was then discovered that this man was sent by the Patriots' Head Coach Bill Belichick to try to gain an advantage over his opponent. Belichick was consequently fined \$500,000 and the Patriots organization was charged \$250,000 for this infraction of the rules. While I agree that this is cheating, and that the fines were totally reasonable, it seems that this does not outrage the general public. Their recent game against the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday Night Football had the highest ratings of any Monday Night game to date. That is a good turnout for a team that supposedly lost a great part of its credibility only a couple of weeks before. Additionally, an ESPN national poll found out that the Patriots are the most popular pick to win Super Bowl XLII. Most people wouldn't pick a team full of frauds to win football's highest honor.

Basketball is not free of dishonesty either; referee Tim Donaghy was found to have bet on the games he refereed between 2005 and 2007. It is reported that he got himself into debt, so he controlled the point spreads of his games to win money and repay his debt. Congressional committees were established to look into gambling among referees, and the NBA launched its own investigation into the gambling. This, however, has not interfered with people trying to get Celtics tickets to see the new acquisitions of Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen. People have lined up outside the new Garden to buy tickets for the 2007-2008 season. As one season ticket holder told me, "That ref business was all one guy and now that he's been weeded out, the games will be free from speculation this season." Most people feel that now that there is stronger testing for steroids in baseball, closer scrutiny on camera positions at NFL games and the exclusion of Tim Donaghy from the NBA referee corps, the credibility of the sports world is greatly improved and they are able to enjoy the games just as they have for years, without giving so much as a second thought to the purity and morality of the sport.

SPORTS

Red Sox Clicking at the Right Time

BY SANCHAY JAIN, III
STAFF WRITER

If you don't know what happened on Friday, September 28—well, then, it's likely that you will not be reading this. That was the day the Red Sox won their first division title in the 21st century and became the AL East Champions for the first time since 1995. If that doesn't seem long to you, consider this: most of the sixties were not even a year old at that point.

It was surely a wild end to a dominant year for the Red Sox. Taking the lead quite early into the season, the team never looked back, though it came quite close to imploding in a similar manner to the New York Mets did this year. Despite the Yankees taking the season series and even going on a massive second-half tear, the Red Sox won the critical games and managed to pull away.

As for the pressure of October baseball, Boston opened its ALDS match-up against the AL West Champions, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, and got off to a fast start. With Josh Beckett pitching a shutout, the outcome was a 4-0 victory. We'll leave taking it "one game at a time" to the managers in the clubhouse as we examine the Red Sox in order to answer the pressing question here in the Nation: will the Red Sox win

the World Series?

Already, we have received one theory from the Head Master herself. Appearing on BLSTV, Ms. Lynne Mooney Teta boldly predicted that the Sox will win it all since the year she came back to Boston Latin School as Assistant Head Master, 2004, happened to be the year of our last World Series victory and the year she left the school, 1986, happened to be the last time the Red Sox entered the World Series, losing infamously to the Mets.

Here in the Sports section of the *Argo*, we'd like to take a careful look at the facts before making our prediction. So, without further ado, we'll look at their chances up close:

Hitting

The team is quite solid in this department, led by Kevin Youkilis, Mike Lowell, Jason Varitek and Rookie of the Year candidate Dustin Pedroia. David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez, hampered with shoulder and knee problems and a strained oblique, respectively, are back and playing regularly. Their stats, however, have been down, and there is the risk of injuring themselves again. J.D. Drew seems to have gotten his hitting

together again, but who really knows? Pedroia, Jacoby Ellsbury, Coco Crisp and Julio Lugo will be providing that much needed "speed on the base paths." One



POSADA MAY NOT SEE THE BALL BUT PAPI SURE DOES

thing to look out for is Varitek's slumping of late, which can be due to fatigue. Perhaps Manager Terry Francona thinks so too, as he has three catchers on the active roster. This also leaves the possibility of pinch hitting and running more late-game situations.

Pitching

The three starters are Josh Beckett, Daisuke Matsuzaka and Curt Schilling. End of story. With Jon Lester in the long relief if necessary and a pretty decent bullpen in Timlin, Delcarmen, Okajima and Papelbon, this aspect seems to be in good shape, yet it can still be considered the weak spot. Dice-K is unproven in big time situations; Lester is likewise unproven. In the bullpen, we must ask ourselves if Okajima has run out of gas; is there a set-up man for the eighth inning? Is it safe to use Eric Gagne anymore? Then there's always the possibility of Schilling or Beckett falling to injuries (knock on wood).

Overall

With the Indians arguably having the better rotation with the two young aces Carmona and Sabbathia, the Red Sox must fear the prospect of Beckett losing game one. In this situation, we must count on Schilling in game two to get the Sox back on track. Though he is a proven big game pitcher, we can't count on him for consistency. If we can escape this situation and move on to the World Series, the only team to watch out for in the NL is the surging Rockies, who are playing on adrenaline and looking to upset some teams. The NL is lackluster otherwise. With that, how does, "2007 World Series Champion, Boston Red Sox" sound to you?

2007 NBA Power Rankings

BY ANDREW DEStEFANO, I
SPORTS EDITOR

While the Red Sox make a run for the World Series and the Patriots for the Super Bowl, I thought I would remind my faithful readers of something: the Celtics have Kevin Garnett! I know most of you have become apathetic about the NBA and the Celtics in particular due to their less-than-stellar record for the past 20 or so years. But alas, we are on the way up! And soon everyone will be aware of this fact (beware of the bandwagon fans). So, I feel the need to perform a civic duty and enlighten all of you apathetic/future bandwagon NBA fans. Here are my power rankings for the 2007-2008 season:

30. Los Angeles Clippers

Elton Brand was the heart and soul of this team, but with a knee injury that will keep him on the sidelines for almost the entire year, the Clippers should return to utter irrelevance.

29. Minnesota Timberwolves

Also known as the 2004 and 2006 Boston Celtics morphed into one super cellar-dweller!

28. Indiana Pacers

If Jermaine O'Neal decides to pull a Vince Carter and tank the season until the Pacers trade him, the Pacers will be lucky to win 20 games.

27. Philadelphia 76ers

I like the grit of Kyle Korver, Samuel Dalembert and Andre Miller, but first round pick Thaddeus Young is at least two years away from contributing to a team sorely in need of some star power.

26. Portland Trail Blazers

Although Greg Oden will miss the entire season after having micro-fracture knee surgery, the Blazers still have a good young nucleus—including last year's rookie of the year Brandon Roy—and a smart coach in Nate McMillan. And people called me crazy when I said Durant over Oden...

25. Sacramento Kings

They have four guys over seven feet tall, Ron Artest, a bald white point guard and a coach I've never heard of. That's

really all there is to say about this team, other than that I feel this will be the highest ranking they will achieve all season.

24. Memphis Grizzlies

One may be quick to underestimate last year's worst team, but beware! With a healthy Pau Gasol and a legitimate point guard in Mike Conley Jr., this team might surprise a lot of people.

23. Milwaukee Bucks

Yi Jianlian was quite possibly the worst top 10 draft pick since Michael Olowokandi. He's tall but can't rebound, slim but can't shoot 3's (unless, of course, a chair is playing defense) and speaks less English than Dice-K. This pick actually made me angry, and I couldn't care less about Milwaukee. Nevertheless, Michael Redd is good for at least 30 to 35 wins.

22. Seattle SuperSonics

I do love Kevin Durant, but when your team's website features the top story "Wally Szczerbiak Feeling Healthy," I cannot rank them higher than 22. (Ironically, also the over/under for games "Wally World" will play this season. Hint—take the under!)

21. Golden State Warriors

The Warriors will without a doubt be the biggest bust of 07-08. J-Rich is gone, Baron Davis has never played two consecutive healthy seasons and their team captain is... Mr. Stephen Jackson! Are you confident yet?

20. New York Knicks

I honestly have no idea how this team is going to play. But I figure they need a good coach to bring together a team of talented misfits. Isaiah Thomas is not a good coach.

19. Atlanta Hawks

Great draft, Joe Johnson is on the verge of becoming a superstar, but with a young point guard in the form of Acie Law, they are a year away.

18. Orlando Magic

Many people think that the signing of Rashard Lewis will push the Magic to the top of the Eastern Conference. I am not one of these people.

17. Charlotte Bobcats

Mark my words: Jared Dudley will average at least 15 points and six boards this year. As long as Emeka Okafor stays healthy, the Cats could be a playoff team.

16. Washington Wizards

This team has nothing interesting about it other than that Gilbert Arenas is in a contract year. Good enough for a playoff spot in the East.

15. Miami Heat

I hold hope that Shaq has some gas left in the tank. Combine that with a healthy Dwayne Wade and this team will bounce back.

14. Los Angeles Lakers

Drop this 12 spots if they trade Kobe.

13. New Jersey Nets

Sean Williams will be a defensive force for years to come and may turn out to be one of the five best players from this draft. (For those of you who believe I hold a Boston College bias, you are 100 percent correct.)

12. Utah Jazz

Bump this up three spots if they trade Kirilenko for at least 60 cents on the dollar.

11. New Orleans Hornets

If Peja stays healthy, Tyson Chandler and Chris Paul will carry this team into the upper echelon of the Western Conference.

10. Denver Nuggets

If George Karl can devise a plan to distribute shots between Allen Iverson and Carmello Anthony, and Marcus Camby stays healthy, the Nuggets will contend in the West. (N.B. This probably won't happen.)

9. Detroit Pistons

The Pistons' time atop the Eastern Conference has come and gone. But they are still good enough to make some noise in the East.

8. Cleveland Cavaliers

Will greatly suffer from the improvement of the Eastern Conference.

7. Toronto Raptors

Last year's surprise team will only get better. Chris Bosh can join the "Super-

star" club with another fine season.

6. Chicago Bulls

I've been waiting for three years for this defensive juggernaut to play up to its potential. Hopefully, Joakim Noah's intensity will push them towards the top of the Eastern Conference.

5. Dallas Mavericks

Will they recover from the infamous playoff collapse against Golden State? Probably. But they will not be as good as last year.

4. Phoenix Suns

This is the last year that the Suns will be a contender in the West. Nash is getting old, Marion wants out and their payroll is increasing each season. If new General Manager Steve Kerr can add a defensive specialist before the trade deadline (his name is Quentin Ross; he plays for the Clippers!), this could finally be the Suns' year.

3. Houston Rockets

Yao has improved each year since coming into the league, McGrady is finally healthy and Steve Francis is back. Yet some people believe they do not have enough firepower to contend with the Spurs and Suns. These people do not deserve to have an opinion.

2. Boston Celtics

Want to bet against Kevin Garnett averaging 20 points, 12 boards and 3 blocks per game in a conference lacking a formidable inside presence? Anyone who says that the new "Big Three" will have problems playing as a cohesive unit probably also thinks that the Rockets don't have enough firepower to contend with the Spurs and the Suns.

1. San Antonio Spurs

They will remain here unless Duncan goes down with an injury or a team can demoralize them. Also, Manu Ginobili is the most underrated player in the NBA. He has three championship rings and a gold medal! So those of you who may be infatuated with Kobe's skill or Duncan's smarts, don't forget about the Argentinean who knows how to do one thing better than anyone else in the NBA: win.

Fall Season:

- Football
- Girls' Swimming
- Boys' Soccer
- Girls' Soccer
- Cross Country
- Girls' Volleyball
- Golf
- Cheerleading

Football Seeking Mid-Season Turnaround

By PAUL BRIDEAU, I
SPORTS EDITOR

It has been repeated ad nauseam in at least two-thirds of our sports articles over the past several years and never has it been more evident than this fall: the Dual County League just needs to go away. As tired as we have become of hearing about its advanced training programs, top notch facilities, turf fields and obnoxiously oversized marching bands, there is clearly no group more tired of this suburban competition than our own Boston Latin School football team.

The strength of the football teams in the DCL is arguably the best in Division 1A. With each team in the league having a win within the conference, except our Wolfpack, there are clearly no easy games. The Wolfpack learned this fact firsthand scoring only 25 points in its first five games while allowing 173 on defense, the second largest scoring differential of the 200-plus teams in eastern Massachusetts. This is in large part due to the fact that the Wolfpack has been faced with the toughest possible schedule thus far: the 4-1 Division 1 rivals, Catholic Memorial Knights, DCL-leading Acton-Boxboro and defending DCL champions Wayland.

Though the league is always a large contributor to our sporting success or lack thereof, nobody should feel right placing the blame completely on the competition. So what has been the problem this year?

The intuitive readers of this article would be quick to point out that the offense has scored very little; the Wolfpack started its tough schedule without scoring in the first three games, and to those who have watched this team over the years, the reason is quite obvious. Over the past few years running the ball has always been the key to the Pack's offense; it wouldn't be inaccurate to say that 90 percent of the plays

included the quarterback handing the ball off to someone in the backfield. There always seemed to be that inevitable 60-yard touchdown run to spark the offense and bring the crowd alive, but this year, it is nowhere to be found. Offensive lineman Alan Circeo (I), however, is adamant that "the running game still is the focal point of our offense, as we don't pass much at all during games. It hasn't been as effective this year because we rarely execute our blocks correctly and the running back gets taken down in the backfield for a loss all too often."

Left guard Mike Rambo (I) says that this blocking problem is largely due to "inexperience on the line and the type of

any play and allow the defense to make tackles for little or no gain. Hopefully, this attempt to fix the offensive line will be a success and lead to better execution on the blocking front.

This lack in execution has plagued the team all season long. Circeo continues by saying, "The main reason that we are 0-5 is our lack of execution. We practice the plays all week and then it seems that on Fridays that we just can't get them right." Starting corner David Calixte (I) explains, "We work really hard during the week, but the execution just isn't there come game time. We seem to be lacking in the fundamentals like tackling and blocking and even player effort has become a problem."

The effort shown by the team in practices is absolutely unparalleled by any other BLS sport, but the aforementioned lack in game time effort is not entirely the fault of the players. Though many teams in the league have adopted the practice of playing people on both offense and defense, it seems BLS does it to a further extent. More than half of the starters play both sides of

the ball and this clearly has affected the amount of effort a player can put in and the level of execution a player can carry out. Rambo explains, "Our staff rotates players at skill positions like receiver and running back pretty frequently but doesn't change things like the quarterback or offensive line very often in the middle of the game."

Circeo comments that substitution can be an issue: "As the game wears on, the wear and tear of playing both ways can definitely be seen in the player's performances." Though this decision is based solely on ability, it is never a good idea to run your best players into the ground;

giving a few reps to a fresh second string is well worth the energy that the starters will gain and the experience the substitutes will acquire.

In observing all of this season's games, the defense has had some bright spots, such as holding the defending champions to zero points for a quarter and a half or an interception by team Co-Captain Ryan England (I); however, eventually the defense breaks down to allow an average of 35 points per game. The overpowering offenses in the DCL and the fact that the BLS defense is on the field for the majority of the game leaves BLS in tough situations. While lacking the ability to run effectively, the team also lacks the ability to control the clock.

It is impossible to point out what one aspect of the team should be altered to create success, but it is quite easy to identify what we do have: a star defensive tackle/right tackle. In an unofficial survey of certain members of the BLS football team, it is clear that Co-Captain Dan Duggan (I) is the team's MVP and an absolute beast. In a season replete with struggles, Duggan has consistently made his share of tackles, giving the team a strong run defense up the middle and a consistent pass rush. His play on the right side of the offensive line is just as solid, which begs the question: why doesn't BLS run to the right side more?

England and Sam Strassman round out the senior captains that hope to lead this team through league newbie, Tyngsboro, and a second half including five teams with a winning percentage of .500 or below. In spite of the slow start, the Wolfpack can easily turn its season around with the upcoming schedule. Hopefully, the team is confident in its ability to do so. I know Rambo has the right idea: "It's game day tomorrow and that's all I care about."

Weekend update: The new o-line was successful as Darian Walker (I) rushed for 100+ yards and BLS scored 26 points, the highest total of the season



THE BLS FOOTBALL TEAM PRACTICES IN THE DIRT-COVERED CLEMENTE FIELD.

players we have this year," explaining that "normally we have a really small, really fast offensive line, but this year we have a bigger, slower offensive line than normal so sometimes there are problems with making downfield blocks."

Good blocking is necessary for any team with an offense so heavily weighted toward the run as BLS. The search for the right offensive line and set of blockers is in the works as stated by lineman Alfredo Rodriguez (I): "Our offense can be good, we just need to find the right personnel; we're in the process of searching for that right now." One missed block can destroy

What Controversy? Patriots on a Roll

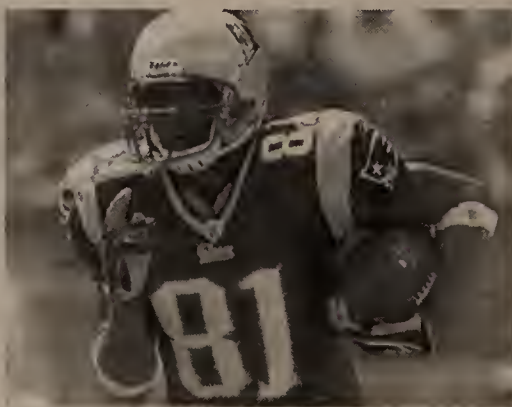
By GRAHAM THOMPSON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ah, football season—truly the best time of the year for those who live in New England. You know how they say that every team has its ups and downs? They meant every team except the Patriots. After improving to 5 and 0 with this weekend's win over the Browns, Brady and the Pats have left little doubt in everyone's mind as to what the best team in the league is. And they're showing no signs of slowing down, which goes to show you how little controversy and doubting affect their play.

At the beginning of the year, many expected that the Pats would have a pretty decent season. Then came the cataclysm: the scandal so infamously dubbed "Videogate" by the media. That time was definitely a low point in the New England sports scene—the Red Sox having end-of-the-year blues and the legendary Bill Belichick caught cheating, tarnishing the Patriots' successes and casting doubt on the Super Bowl wins. All of a sudden, we were the bad guys,

the "evil-empire" type team of the NFL. The whole season looked pretty bleak.

And yet, look where we are now. Belichick not only confessed to the cheating, but he also took full responsibility, not skirting around the issue or even trying to deny it. Though his "it is what it is" attitude doesn't make up for what he did, it sure was the most mature way to deal with that situation. How often do you see athletes (or anyone for that matter) accept responsibility for their actions so readily, without trying to shift the blame on someone else? (The steroids scandals come to mind.) His methods of dealing with this unprecedented crisis have drawn the support of the fans, team and franchise, binding the team tighter together and bringing their game to a whole new level.



MOSS IS LEADING THE LEAGUE ONCE AGAIN

So here we are now, five games into the season, averaging over 36 points per game and easily handling every team we face. Any doubts as to the Patriots' authenticity have vanished. A casual comment from John Madden summed up the situation: "If I had Tom Brady, I wouldn't need any videos either!" Brady has a passer rating of 128 and a touchdown-interception ratio of 16:2, and has completed 74 percent of his passes. The numbers don't lie;

he and everyone else on the Patriots are having a phenomenal start to the season, including, of course, Randy Moss, the Patriots' supposed "big gamble" at the start of the year. So while there are two other teams whose records rival ours, there is only one with a realistic shot at going 16-0 this season—and it isn't Peyton Manning's team.

The truly impressive thing about the Pats is that no matter what, they play and act as a team. Ever since Super Bowl XXXVI, when the Patriots decided to break the tradition of individual player introductions and take the field together as a team, they have been one of the most outstanding examples of cooperation ever in pro sports. Throughout every crisis, the team members support each other and stick together. The lack of big name stars on the roster is not because of a lack of talent, but because every player plays to win, not to set records. So this season, when Belichick was under fire from all sides, the team stuck up for him. Most players were outraged that such criticism and scandal erupted because of such a relatively unimportant issue. They were even more upset that anyone would dare to claim that the Patriots could only win by cheating. The response? Well, if winning five straight games doesn't count as a comeback, then not much else qualifies. Here's to hoping that "Videogate" is forever put behind us with an outstanding, and dare I say record-setting, season.



No Wires Attached: Wi-Fi at BLS

BY CHENGLIN YUAN, II
& WENDY PAKOSTANDINI, II
PHOTO EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

In this age of high technology where the sky is the limit, where even airlines are now enthusiastically offering in-flight service for Wi-Fi enabled devices, our school is also joining in on the craze for this advancement. That's right—we are going wireless.

Wi-Fi networks were created by Wi-Fi Alliance, a non-profit organization

that aims to provide wireless internet access locations to people at home, at work or on the go. In order for a building to become completely wireless, devices called wireless access points (WAPs) first have to be installed in rooms. These access points project wireless signals to a central computer that has a wireless network card. Together they create



RICHARD A. CLARKE

a wireless network and consequently are able to dispatch data back and forth.

Boston Latin School has been wireless since 2001, but only on a small scale. The wireless carts next to Mr. Joel Ramos's desk provide a sufficient wireless connection for laptops in the library, but due to

the unstinting generosity of an alumnus by the name of Richard A. Clarke, the whole school and surrounding grounds will be wireless by next year.

Richard A. Clarke, a member of the class of 1968, worked extensively for the Pentagon, the Intelligence Community and the United States National Security Council before becoming a senior White House Advisor during the current

WIRELESS

Continued on page 14

The DaVinci Code at BLS?

BY STACEY LEONARD, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Founded in 1635, Boston Latin School is an institution steeped in culture and history. A few weeks ago, some of this rich past was brought to life when the library staff discovered several crates containing nine plaster friezes. Retrieved from the storage rooms of the Latin School library, these artifacts depict a classical scene of horsemen. The origin and date of these friezes remain to be determined.

Thirty-one students enrolled in the newly-established Art History class, taught by Ms. Judi Freeman, are currently investigating the situation. "We want them to discover on their own when and by whom these friezes were bought, and what classical story these friezes are illustrating," said Mr. Stephen Watson, a Latin School librarian.

According to archival documents the students examined, the friezes may have been purchased in the nineteenth century. "An old headmaster wanted to adorn the school with artwork that reflects its classical tradition," said Mr. Watson. Contemporary descriptions and photographs showed that the building was decadently ornamented with such sculptures and drawings at the time.

Located on Warren Avenue, this building was erected in 1881 and was the fourth to house the Latin School. In 1920, when the school was moved to Avenue Louis Pasteur to accommodate more students, a considerable number of the pieces were placed into the Boston Public Library. Later, this art was returned and stored in the basement of the new Latin School building, where it has remained largely unknown.

"I knew there were crates that contained art in this building when I first came here a couple years ago. I was very curious about them and other librarians were also very curious. Something was in there, and I wasn't sure what it was.

Toward the middle of August one year, I heard there was a leak in the storage room, but I couldn't move these big boxes. The more I thought about them, the more curious I became," said Mr. Watson. "I have gone to a rare-books section in the Boston Public Library which contains a lot of our books about our school," he continued.

The students from the Art History class enjoy the challenge in solving this mystery. "This unique experience is significant because we can study old things without looking at slides or going to museums," said Darlene Jeanty (I).

Emily Webb (I), another Art History student, expressed her excitement at this process. "Since I've taken the class, I have completely seen how history depends on art because that's how we find out about world cultures," she said.

With the aid of Ms. Freeman, Mr. Watson and Ms. Cynthia Curtner, an archivist and Latin School parent, the students are learning firsthand the provenances, or the history of these friezes. In examining antiquated documents and photographs, they hope to unravel the mystery behind the origin and background of the artwork.

"The class is a lot of work," said Maria Weissman (I), "but I really enjoy it because I already am able to view artwork in a better and more educated light."

"Unfortunately, the friezes are in various states of disrepair. The plaster is cracked almost universally in some of them, while others are infected with mold," said Mr. Watson.

The preservation of these relics will require funding from various sources. Students and faculty are currently working with the administration and the Boston Latin School Alumni Association. The friezes could potentially be put on display in the school, encouraging students to explore the rich classical heritage of Latin School. As Ms. Freeman points out: "What high school has artwork? Very few."

BLS Executes Lockdown

BY YUKUN LI, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

At 8:45 a.m. on Friday, November 9, Head Master Lynne Mooney Teta notified all students and masters of the beginning of a lockdown drill. All students in the halls at the time of the announcement were instructed to enter the nearest classroom and remain there until further notice, while masters were ordered to lock all doors immediately. Classes were suspended as everyone awaited for further instructions.

A few minutes later, another announcement informed students that the drill was over. The ending bell for first period followed. Students proceeded to second period, and the bustle resumed in the Latin School halls.

Though many students thought it was trivial, the lockdown drill was an important and necessary exercise. Several incidents requiring actual school lockdowns have already occurred in neighboring areas. Back in April, the John F. Kennedy Elementary School was placed under a lockdown while police responded to a call concerning shots being fired in the area.

Lockdowns have been occurring with increasing frequency in the past month. On November 3, Needham High School went into lockdown after reports of a homicide suspect roaming the area. Then on November 8, the day before the lockdown drill at Latin School, six Boston schools, including Boston Latin Academy, had to carry out similar safety practices while police officers scoured the area for a kidnapping suspect.

Even though Friday's drill may seem like a response to these incidents, it was actually planned earlier this year. The ad-

ministration decided that it was time to test out this security drill in order to give students and masters an idea of what to do in the event of an emergency.

"The lockdown had already been planned. We are just trying it out to see what happens," said Assistant Head Master Malcolm Flynn. "It turned out fairly well," he continued. "Directions were followed, students got into classrooms and rooms were locked."

Though these results were reassuring, many students had mixed feelings about the drill's effectiveness. "The lockdown drill didn't really seem like a big deal. It just came and went really fast. I don't really feel safer after the drill, but I still feel the same. I don't feel like anything



OKAY, THE LOCKDOWN WASN'T THIS SERIOUS...

bad can really happen inside the school," said Tommy Lin (II).

Some officials worried that the drill could have produced mass hysteria, which occurred when the exercise was conducted

in high schools in several major cities in Canada. But the drill was intended to prepare students, not frighten them.

This drill was just one of many potential practice lockdowns; only the fundamental procedures were tested. Questions have been raised as to what would be done if a lockdown began during lunch or in between classes. In such scenarios, it would take much more time to get everybody into classrooms, especially if a large number of people were concentrated in the Dining Hall. These special situations have already been considered by the administration to better prepare the school and to ensure the safety of students and staff should a real lockdown ever occur.

Global News Tidbits

>>>Christmas in Sydney, Australia will be like no other this year. Santas are urged to replace the traditional chant of "ho, ho, ho" with "ha, ha, ha" because officials believe that "ho" could be derogatory to women and frightening to children. Denis Hood of Family First Party, an organization which holds conservative family values, however, disagrees: "This term would

be of no offense to anyone at all. It is just the politically correct police trying to impose their

views on society." (Reuters)

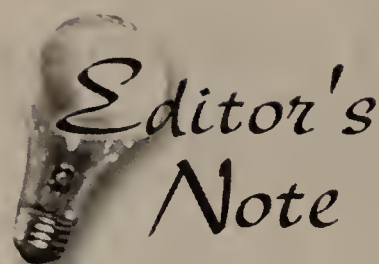
>>>Police charged Gerald A. Rocchi, 32, of Kentucky with first-degree robbery for threatening an ice cream store with a stapler. According to authorities, Rocchi entered the ice cream shop wearing a ski mask and flashed a chrome-plated stapler at an employee, demanding money. He

managed to escape temporarily with \$175 but was soon arrested by the police at his house. When asked about his choice of weapon, Rocchi replied, "The stapler's chrome finish could have made it look like a gun if someone didn't get a good look at it." (AP)

>>>Though having lived in Switzerland most of his life, seventy-year-old German native Ulrich Kring was ordered to take a German course and relearn his native

tongue by the Swiss town, Dielsdorf, before citizenship could be granted. (Reuters)

>>>While praying in an Arkansas church, Reverend Fidelis Obdike's laptop disappeared along with Carl Hagy, the man who was praying with him. Obdike had bought his laptop from Hagy two weeks before, and Hagy was arrested by Sebastian County Jail of Arkansas for allegedly pawning the computer. (AP)



Thanksgiving has been an American tradition for nearly 400 years. This holiday has come a long way since the 1600s. Back then Thanksgiving Thursday was preceded by a period of fasting, not to make room in one's stomach for an imminent ingestion of a comatose-inducing portion of turkey, but to repent for one's sins. This sparse Puritan holiday (quite literally a holy-day) has since transformed into a gravy-guzzling, football-watching, day of lethargy. And we at the Argo couldn't be happier.

After all, amidst all the gluttony, Thanksgiving is still first and foremost about family. So on Thanksgiving while you're sprawling on an overstuffed chair

stuffing wheelbarrows of stuffing into your overstuffed belly, we encourage you to cuddle up with a loved one and read the Argo. Do the crossword puzzle with your Uncle Joey, laugh over the horoscopes with you cousin Suzy, and if that spoonful of cranberry sauce goes astray you can always use the Argo as a bib. We are genuinely excited to offer you this multi-faceted and multi-purposed issue of the Argo.

We really do have a great issue in store for you. The News section is running a first time piece documenting the progress of the elected senior class officers. Arts and Entertainment, for the second time this year, has dedicated part of its section to covering the offerings of a designated part of Boston. For this issue the Back Bay received the nod. The Fun Page is, well, fun. A riveting crossword puzzle is complemented by a mind-boggling sudoku, so put on your thinking cap. The Business and Technology section features the first of a series of alumni interviews, geared toward catching up

with BLS grads who have stepped into the realm of business or technology. The Sports section as usual includes a number of insightful articles on the successes and unfortunate shortcomings of our school and local teams.

Speaking of sports, the publication of this issue coincides with pep rally and the annual BLS-English showdown. While we incessantly begged our publisher to have this one issue printed in Latin purple in honor of the momentous occasion, it was to no avail. We settled with putting "LET'S BEAT ENGLISH!" on the back cover in big letters. If you so desire, we urge you to run a purple highlighter over every bit of text in this 20-page newspaper. You might want to consider this as a safer and less embarrassing alternative to painting your torso with our majestic school color.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

—Editors-in-Chief

Andrew Klein & Alexander Zhu

Boston Latin School *Argo*
2007-2008 Academic Year

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Desmond Tutu Speaks to Youth

BY MORGON BANKS, I
& SHAUNA BENNETT, I

ASST. NEWS EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

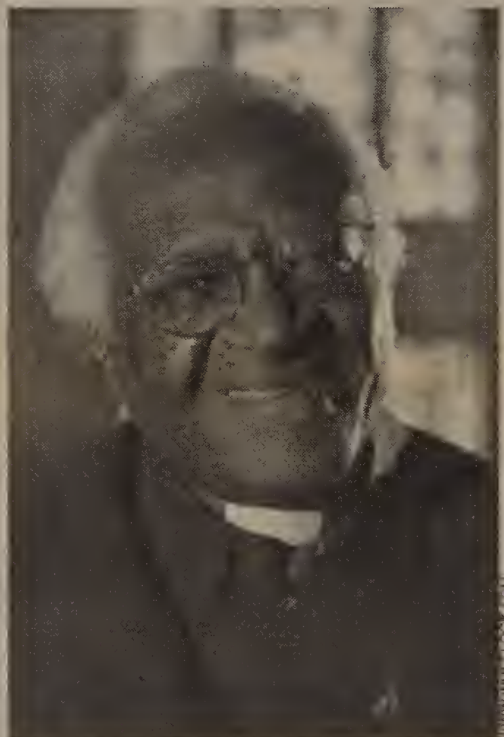
On October 29, middle and high school students from Boston, including several Boston Latin School students enrolled in the Facing History and Ourselves course, attended the "Bridges to Hope and Understanding" Youth Symposium at Wheelock College. While this event featured many prominent guest speakers, including Governor Deval Patrick, Boston Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Carol Johnson, City Councilor Charles Yancey and WBZ-TV reporter and humanitarian Liz Walker, the main attraction was Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, who is best known for his efforts to stop the forced racial segregation and inequalities of apartheid.

To start the presentation, Jackie Jenkins-Scott, President of Wheelock College, introduced the keynote speaker and explained the purpose for the Symposium. Ultimately, the aim of this Youth Symposium was to introduce Boston youth to the Archbishop's peaceful reconciliation tactics.

"There are some good things going on with our youth in the city, and we never hear about the positive stuff they are doing," said Ms. Jenkins-Scott. "We thought it was perfect to invite the archbishop because he loves working with youth. We

felt very fortunate that he wanted to be part of this."

Desmond Tutu's beliefs revolve around the concept of ubuntu, the belief



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE DESMOND TUTU

that "your humanity is wrapped up in my humanity." If people were to follow the guidelines of ubuntu, Desmond Tutu believes that peace could one day be obtained.

After recognition for fostering leadership skills in youth committed to

bringing about peaceful changes in their communities, Desmond Tutu addressed the student audience. Drawing parallels between the brutalities he witnessed during the apartheid with the violence seen today in the streets of Boston, Desmond Tutu urged the crowd to become more proactive in working for a solution. "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor," he said.

The Archbishop has high hopes for the power of youth involvement. "I have a very, very high regard for young people and if we can help get them excited and inspired to try to work for a better situation, for an end to violence that is at the moment is such an integral part of where they live, then we will have done some good," he continued.

In the spirit of youth activism, the floor was turned to a panel of five students, one of whom was Latin School senior Shauna Bennett. They offered their opinions and possible solutions for the situation.

"People need to stop getting on the train of silence and do something about violence," urged Vanessa Etienne, a student panelist from Boston Community Leadership Academy.

Afterward, the audience had the

DESMOND TUTU

Continued on page 3



Boston Latin School
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New England
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Competition

1996 New England
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Superior
Achievement Award

1996 Third Place
Suffolk University
High School
Journalism
Competition

1998 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior
Achievement Award

1997 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior Achievement
Award

2004 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Highest Achievement
Award

2007 First Place
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in Sports Writing

New 2007 Honorable Mention
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in News Writing

NEWS

Where Are They Now: Class Officers Report

By AMY WALSH, I
STAFF WRITER

Last month, the Class of 2008 elected Galen Macdonald, Andrew Lawrence, James Fitzpatrick and Morgon Banks, to senior class offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively. To keep Latin School students updated about their recent accomplishments and to inform the general public of their future plans, the four officers offered the *Argo* insights into their current projects.

The annual Halloween Contest, which allows students to compete for the best costumes, was one of the major fundraising events organized thus far. The total profit from this year's contest exceeded twice that of last year's. "We're in pretty good shape. We made \$454 which will be added to the surplus from last year," said Morgon Banks.

Another project the class officers undertook was the purchase of senior sweatshirts. This annual fundraising project, which encourages every senior to pay for a Class of 2008 sweatshirt in black or gray, is an important source of revenue. According to the officers, however, there may have been complications with the purchase; seniors may not receive their sweatshirts before the day of the Latin School rally

on November 21. "We are working hard with Mr. Keitt to try to make sure that the sweatshirts do arrive on time," said Macdonald.

The class officers meet every Thursday to discuss future plans and organize upcoming events. "Our Thursday meeting is when we discuss the next week's agenda. It helps things run a lot more smoothly," explained Macdonald.



CLASS OFFICERS RAISED MONEY WITH HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISERS

Every Friday, the Class Committee, a group composed of representatives from each homeroom, joins the class officers in a meeting to share ideas and plan projects. "During these meetings, we discuss fundraising, event ideas, and ways to get people to go to the sports games,"

said Macdonald.

The Class Committee plays an essential role in facilitating communication in senior class events. Homeroom representatives bring back information from meetings and allow each student to be in touch with recent news. "All of these representatives play a crucial part of our senior year, reminding seniors about everything from the Halloween Contest to the Powderpuff Game," said Banks.

In addition, the Class Committee is in charge of the annual Sixie Social, a dance event designed exclusively for members of Class VI. A Latin School tradition, the Sixie Social raises money for the senior class every year.

In terms of future plans, the officers mentioned several potential and original projects.

For example, the Class of 2008 is planning a first ever digital yearbook. "I think it would be a great idea for us to gather and create a short slide show or film of our years at BLS and, most specifically, our senior year. It will capture our greatest moments through pictures of events and

clubs or short clips of BLSTV, shows or games for us to enjoy before graduation," said Kristely Bastien (I), the Chair of Class Committee, who proposed the idea and is heading its production. "A digital photo yearbook could possibly be premiered at a fundraising event," continued Lawrence.

Furthermore, the Class Committee and the class officers intend to set up a Senior Week, an event designed for seniors to show their school spirit and celebrate their final year of high school, and a Senior Show, a production in conjunction with Student Council that will be organized by the seniors to commemorate their time at the Latin School. To build a spirit of community among the senior class, Secretary Fitzpatrick also suggested to a plan to break a world record together as a class, despite the difficulty involved. "Perhaps we could have a massive game of telephone," he said.

Despite their accomplishments, the senior class officers also acknowledged certain areas for improvement. A Presidential Office Hour, for example, proposed by Macdonald during his campaign as a plan to meet with seniors personally, has yet to be established. "It is scheduled to begin on the Wednesday before winter break if all goes as planned," said Macdonald. A proposal must be written and shown to Mr. Sylvester Keitt, the senior class advisor, before the office hour can be implemented.

"The class officers and senior class committee are working side by side to create the best senior year possible," said Banks.

YouthCAN Wins Grand Prize

By LILY BURGER, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On November 15, KEYSpan Foundation pronounced Boston Latin School's Youth Climate Action Network (YouthCAN) as the first place winner of the Environmental Sustainability Competition. Held during the month of October, this contest was open to high school students in Boston, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Students were challenged to find innovative ways to reduce the negative environmental impact of their respective schools. As acknowledgment for its actions, YouthCAN received a \$1,000 grant and will be featured in local press.

To meet the objectives of the competition, which were to save energy, reduce waste and raise awareness of the environment, YouthCAN has sought creative ways to involve the entire school.

For energy efficiency, YouthCAN has formulated plans to purchase solar panels and use more energy-conserving lighting and heating. "We want an audit done," said Ms. Cate Arnold, advisor of YouthCAN. "It's a great way to show how serious we are about our cause."

Committed to reducing waste in the school community, YouthCAN's Recycling Committee has placed boxes outside the main office for students to deposit old batteries and bins in the Dining Hall to recycle cans and bottles. "In the long run, we want to help push for recycling bins in public places around Boston," said

Elizabeth Mahoney (IV), a member of the Recycling Committee.

Furthermore, YouthCAN created school-wide competitions to motivate the entire student body in the fight against global warming. In the recent Paper Drive Contest, different classes competed to recycle the most paper. Think Outside the Bottle, an ongoing contest between homerooms, promotes conservation of natural resources by encouraging students to drink from reusable water bottles.

"I am so incredibly proud of how hard everyone is working and how far we have gotten. It really keeps the momentum going when we see how much we can really do," said Ms. Arnold.

Yet, this past accomplishment is just one of YouthCAN's achievements. Since its founding last year, the club has attracted considerable attention in the Latin School community and beyond. Now, over 300 members strong, the club has divided into 16 different subgroups to focus on its different goals.

The Network Committee, for in-

stance, is responsible for reaching out to other environmentally-focused groups. YouthCAN currently partners with the New England Aquarium, the National Wildlife Federation and the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT.



A STUDENT PROMOTES THE CONSERVATION OF PLASTIC BOTTLES

"We began this year by contacting people from last year's events who showed

interest in helping us or in starting similar groups. We are now starting to find new organizations related to us and we have been working on projects with them," said Shannon Casey (IV), a member of the Network Committee.

On November 3, YouthCAN participated in the second annual Step It Up, a nationwide event held to raise awareness for global warming. At this event, YouthCAN generated much enthusiasm. "We were the only youth group that held a table there, but it was great to hear so many people on a legislative level interested in the cause," said Ms. Arnold.

In addition, YouthCAN is exploring various financial options to support its causes. For example, every time one uses goodsearch.com, an Internet fundraising initiative, under Boston Latin School's name, one penny is donated to the school. Thus far, the club has raised \$170 through this process.

The money generated from these contests and fundraisers will provide funding for the club's second annual Youth Summit at MIT. At this event, YouthCAN hopes to garner supporters across Massachusetts. "If we can get adults willing to be advisors and kids who are willing to form clubs, we can really expand our network," said Ms. Arnold.

In the end, YouthCAN's philosophy has proved strong: "When you think big, you can do big."

Desmond Tutu
Continued from page 2

opportunity to pose questions to the panel or offer their own solutions or observations. Daniel Grant, a junior from the Community Academy of Science and Health, expressed his frustration with the

situation and emphasized the importance of teens coming together to make a difference. "I see a lot of violence in Boston, we need to speak to each other, reconcile. We need to have mediations among each other because if we don't, we'll never be able to bridge the gap between where we are and where we need to be in our

community."

To continue their efforts, an email, sparkthetruth@gmail.com, was set up for people to send in their suggestions of how to create a more peaceful society and share their opinions.

With the recent surge in teen violence in Boston and across the country,

there has been an outcry for finding ways to prevent this rise. In order to achieve this goal, many teens are encouraged to be involved.

In the words of Desmond Tutu: "You all are VSPs—very special people. You are fantastic and we are depending on you."

FORUM

Can Fringe Candidates Still Have a Positive Influence on our National Elections?

PRO



CON

By QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, II
STAFF WRITER

By NATHANIEL EISEMAN, I
COPY EDITOR

Dennis Kucinich, Alan Keyes, Mike Gravel or Ron Paul. These are names you'd expect to see mentioned in an article somewhere in the "Nation" section of *The Boston Globe*. But they won't be featured in a size 76-point font headline, let alone in future U.S. history textbooks. They don't have a chance of winning the presidential election, especially after alienating most of the country with their radical views, and because they don't have enough money to run an effective campaign. So why, you ask, do they bother running at all? Why do they spend the considerable time, effort and money to go around the country shaking hands, holding signs and making speeches? Why are they present in TV debates alongside "heavy hitters" such as Barack and Hillary, the two candidates whom Americans know on a first-name basis? Wouldn't it be easier—both for them and for those of us who can vote or study U.S. Government—just to have the major candidates, the ones likely to win, rather than the ones who just want to get their point across or who think they have nothing better to do with their millions? Why not narrow the election down to the major players, the mainstream Democrats and the Republicans? After all, that is how the country seems defined: by states colored in with either red or blue.

While it might be easier to remember two candidates instead of six, there is a chance that the presidential debates without the fringe candidates would be more homogenized, without those pesky independent thinkers interrupting all the time. Imagine, for a moment, two of the "front-runners," Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, debating each other in a nationally televised debate. They go on and on about issues they both have strong platforms on. But what if there is an issue that neither want to bring up, such as the success or failure of the war on drugs? Without another candidate debating them, both can quietly skirt the issue without controversy. With a fringe candidate present, however, there is someone to pressure the candidates to tackle the issues they would not otherwise discuss. The presence of fringe candidates forces the others to strengthen and clarify their own platforms, which leads to a better process for everyone involved.

All this talk of "indie" candidates brings us to the big (red) elephant in the room: Stephen Colbert. The popular Comedy Central talk show host announced his "campaign" for president in October, but, alas, was not allowed to be added to South Carolina's primary ballot, where he wanted to run as a "favorite son" candidate. Nationwide, fans of Colbert took his candidacy seriously, creating websites devoted to his campaign, despite the fact that his on-air conservative alter ego announced he would run as both a Democrat and a Republican to better his chances and even contemplated running as "Colbert-Colbert," acting as his own vice president. Can you imagine how much the number of viewers would skyrocket if Colbert was allowed to participate in a presidential debate? (Keep that in mind for *Sweeps Week*, CNN.) The truth is, the satire on Colbert's show is hard-hitting at times. Colbert's blunt way of addressing the guests on his show is revealing, informative and, of course, hilariously awkward when applied to a debate.

Finally, for those of you who actually want to vote for the fringe candidates, they provide an alternative choice. Those who are disgusted by both the Democratic and Republican candidates but still want to be active in the democratic process can still vote for someone. After all, there are nine types of Cheerios. Shouldn't we have more than two choices for the person who will lead our nation for four years?

There seems to be a popular belief that's been floating around recently, especially among die-hard liberals, that voter stupidity is some kind of endemic disease that afflicts entire parts of this nation. These liberals, who once pinpointed this disease in locations whose voting patterns were mostly Republican, are now finding themselves in the same quandary that our president complained of a few years ago. They can't figure out who's with them and who's against them. Indeed, dissension within party lines is proving quite a blow to the egos of liberals who once believed—as does any political bloc—they knew what was best for everyone. But the dissenters are not voting for Republicans, as one would expect; they are voting for third party candidates. Do they honestly think that these candidates can possibly win? Of course not.

Those who complain that Ralph Nader siphoned votes from the 2000 Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore need only look back eight years to the 1992 election to find consolation. Independent Ross Perot garnered 19 percent of the popular vote, the best standing of a third party candidate since 1912. Republicans argued that he had hijacked the 19 percent from presidential incumbent George H. W. Bush. Had those votes not been taken from Bush, he would have emerged victorious. It's true: the Democratic candidate Bill Clinton did not win by a large majority. But if Perot had not been in the election, would those votes have gone to Bush? Unfortunately, this is not how it works. Grievances against third party candidates for "ruining elections" are usually nothing more than sour grapes.

The reason why some people vote for a third party candidate is not because they would ever want him to run the country or that they necessarily agree with his platform. It is because they want to throw away their votes. If a voter doesn't like either major party candidate, he or she could simply not vote—but that would make the individual seem to not care about our country's leadership. Instead, the individual casts his vote for a third party candidate, a symbolic act that makes a clear statement to the Democrats and Republicans alike: "Thanks, but no thanks." If both major parties wanted the poor, lost sheep who vote for the third parties to return to them, all they would have to do is nominate candidates more attractive to the voting public. Instead of blaming the voters for wasting their votes, or calling them stupid and incapable of determining proper leadership, the major parties should attempt to appeal to them—ultimately, it is the people who elect the president. Before the secondary elections, there are, of course, many candidates in each major party that would appeal to any possible voter. These "fringe candidates," however, often do not have a chance, for the major parties decide who will get the funding and the face time long before the presidential race begins.

Regrettably, instead of initiating political reform among their presidential candidates to make them more appealing, the major parties are trying to keep the fringe alternatives off the ballots. On November 5, CNN reported that supporters of Barack Obama's campaign tried to use their inside connections to ensure that Stephen Colbert would not appear on South Carolina's Democratic primary ballots. Funnyman Colbert has since dropped out of the presidential election—so to which candidate will his votes go? They might go to a different third party candidate; they might never have been cast, especially since it was only a primary election. Even if we do give our votes to third party candidates in the coming election, these candidates will have neither decided nor stolen the election. They will have shown the Democrats and Republicans that their political culture and their candidates must change.

Forum Question

Do fringe candidates contribute anything to the election?



CHENGLIN YUAN (II)

"Even if they can't win major elections, they can still contribute new ideas that other candidates want to avoid or haven't thought of, and can use later."

—Nafun Awal, I



MICHELE YAN (II)

"They can still contribute to our election process through the debates by raising interesting and controversial points about major candidates."

—Gerry Bilodeau, II



USA WANG (III)

"Third party candidates can't win a presidential election, but with our country increasingly wanting a major change in politics, now would be the best possible time for a new system of electing leaders."

—Amelia Burke, III



CHENGLIN YUAN (III)

"Fringe candidates should be able to contribute. No one can tell who will be effective [leaders]."

—Kenan Verna, IV



USA WANG (III)

"Fringe candidates give the people a choice different from what everyone else thinks."

—Kimberly Gilmore, V



USA WANG (III)

"I think that they should be able to run because anyone who wants to should be able to speak their mind."

—Hannah Tran-Trinh, VI

FORUM

Lockdown Letdown

BY RACHEL PRIMÉ, I
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, November 9, at approximately 8:43 a.m., Boston Latin School entered lockdown for the first time in...well, ever. It seems somewhat unbelievable, but several other Boston schools entered legitimate lockdowns just a day prior to our drill. Around noon on November 8, the police were alerted that a robbery had taken place on River Street in Hyde Park. The victim was held hostage in a van which later crashed in Roxbury, where he escaped and contacted the police. The police thought it would be safer to keep schools in the surrounding area (Boston Latin Academy, the Hernandez, Trotter, Ellis, Lewis and Higginson) in a state of lockdown as they pursued the suspect. Just a week earlier, on November 2, Needham schools were locked down for about two hours past dismissal time after a 78-year-old man was beaten to death before noon in his own house. Finally, around 5 p.m., a suspect was arrested and charged with the murder, and the students were released.

The way a lockdown proceeds varies from school to school. During our drill, we practiced an internal lockdown where doors were locked and shades drawn in classrooms. During the November 8 external lockdown in the other schools, business was conducted as usual, though people were not allowed to leave or enter the building. In certain situations, it is possible that we will experience this sec-

ond method.

I found our drill to be quite anticlimactic. I was expecting an alarm to ring or chaos to erupt in the hallways. Instead, after the announcement, my R1 teacher casually strolled into the hallway and locked the doors. Next, we sat awkwardly for a few minutes until I broke the silence by asking, "Shouldn't someone close the shades?" We turned off the lights for effect. Even with these safety precautions, specific scenarios such as a threat to students in the defenseless Dining Hall or a Latin student with a firearm don't appear to have been addressed at this time. Additionally, some students have reported that their teachers did not follow protocol.

The goal of a lockdown is to protect everyone from possible danger. The guidelines are simple: lock the doors, stay far away from windows and make it extremely difficult to see into rooms. Should classes continue? That's debatable, as well as dependent on the urgency of the situation. If there's someone running through the halls with a weapon, then perhaps it would



DUCK AND COVER. IT COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE.

passably for a first-time drill. I think that it would make more sense for us to have a surprise drill, similar to a fire drill, so people would react the same as they would during an actual crisis.

be wise to cease the recitation of fourth declension noun endings. If it's something outside the school environment, then it would be appropriate to continue with normal classes during an external lockdown. Our drill would have been more effective if everyone had treated it as a worst-case scenario and not as a joke. In a real emergency, attitudes would have been different, but the procedure worked

Our school community laughed it off and considered it comic relief to break up the monotony of first period, but this is a serious issue. In a building containing 2,400 students, it is hard to feel unsafe. But the reality is that school violence is becoming more prevalent, and our nation is being subjected to stricter safety precautions than in previous years. Chances are that we will have more drills, but is it too strange of a thought that 20 years from now, lockdowns might be a normal occurrence in schools?

4 Steps to the American Dream

BY RICHARD PENG, I
LAYOUT EDITOR

America is all about opportunity. Every parent tells his or her kid, "You can be anything you want as long as you work hard." It's all about productivity, efficiency and, of course, shortcuts. Every true American tries to achieve the same result with less work.

Bust out your notebooks and pencils, kids, because I am about to bestow upon you the techniques to the ultimate shortcut. No, it's not the Atkins diet, but the No. 1 recommended employer-approved, AFE-certified Rick's Résumé Reinvigorator.

No matter what you want in life, be it material goods, status, power, education or a date with Jessica Alba, you need to apply for it, and your application is most likely made or broken by your résumé. That high-paying job, that Ivy League education, that scholarship—if you are going to apply for anything, you'll need Rick's Résumé Reinvigorator!

Step 1: The introduction. In general, people won't bother reading anything in detail, but they will remember the beginning and the end. This is your way of grabbing the reader's attention, but since it's not an English essay, don't worry about the format or thesis. Make bold, powerful assertions about your character and personality. Worry about the supporting

information later. Notice the idea here is not to include skill sets, experience or anything you need to corroborate with actual evidence. Example: "Natural leader who loves to learn and share ideas."

Step 2: The experience. Here, we start to enter hostile territory. No one is excited about seeing what they expect, so you ought to apply for a job two levels above your pay grade, to a college with average acceptance SAT scores 400 above yours or to a merit scholarship for intelligence 53 points above your IQ. To make

up for your history of lackluster performance, you should truthfully (that is, to the best of your knowledge) describe any work experience that shows you are ready for bigger and better things. Since this is based on your opinion, feel free to put those big English vocabulary words to use. For example, as a waiter you could bill yourself as a "Dining Experience Coordinator" with a description that reads "has managed multiple unique dining experiences and facilitated client-production interaction." If you've never held a job, don't fret; I've got a solution for you, too. A job is a source of income, and a source of income is something you do to get money. If you get an allowance, anything that you do to grow that parental money tree is game.

Step 3: The volunteer experience

is second to actual work experience because it's a pseudo-job you don't get paid for. This section is your godsend; if you're shaky on Step 2, this says something about you as a candidate. You are a decent person. You may like money, but you also want peace in the Middle East, a way to feed starving children in Bolivia and a cure for AIDS. My definition of volunteering is anything you do that doesn't grant you pleasure or compensation (monetary, service- or grade-wise). As always, it is what you see yourself as, not the truth. No one can handle the truth. If you pick up litter and drop it in the trash can once a day, you're an environmentalist. Answer a friend's question about class? You're a tutor.

Step 4: The Awards and Honors. This can be a minefield if you aren't careful. While previous steps attest to your skills, the awards claim that those skills are one of a kind. Again, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and so is the award. Any congratulatory quote, praise or recognition is sufficient as long as you make it sound official. For those who purchase the program, you will be provided with the additional bonus of the prestigious "R.R.R.P. Lifetime Achievement Award" and the honor of being labeled a National Future Scholarly Leaders Laureate to help you build that perfect awards section. Keep in mind, the nation in question does not have to be large, recognized by any international body or in possession of any land.

If you follow these four steps and you still get rejected, then I'm sorry. Even the greatest techniques have their limitations. You must have tried to get into Harvard with a 0.6 GPA or missed out on some potential things you could have added. This article, for example, is one of my volunteer activities. If you've read this, I'm now your invaluable life mentor.



"My résumé is not all lies!
My name is correct!"

TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Doesn't Deliver

BY DANNY CHEN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What person has never made a mistake in his or her life? To err is human, after all. It would make no sense for us to assume that we are flawless. Forgetfulness plagues us all. As sleep-deprived students, there is no way we can outrun it. It will always catch us off-guard, no matter how prepared we are. In years past at Boston Latin School, a student would be called down to the office to pick up an item he or she left at home or it would be brought to the student. Those days are gone and we have reverted to an almost Draconian system in which offenders are punished for neglecting to bring assignments and day-to-day necessities.

I remember the days when forgetfulness was not treated as a sin. Back then it was not a crime to forget something. If we were absentminded, we were gently reminded not to be so again. Recent changes in the school's policy reflect the administration's new attitude toward items dropped off in the office. Now students will not be able to access them until the end of the day. It is understandable that the office would not want to waste precious minutes of the already hectic morning delivering these items to us because of the time needed to do so and potential for such a system to be abused. Why not deliver them when there is more time? During class, perhaps? The most likely response to this scenario would be that delivery during class would be disruptive. Delivering materials to students would prevent the main office and the office aides stationed there from carrying out their other responsibilities.

As students, we understand that we are not supposed to leave important materials at home. It is irresponsible to do so, but what can we do about the occasional mistake? The expectation is that we will bring our supplies to school every day. But if we forget something, then the consequences kick in and we might have to explain to our parents why we got a big red F after staying up until 2 a.m. adding the final touches to a project. For Latin School kids, knowing that a project was collecting dust in a lonely corner of the main office rather than being presented in class can be quite painful.

This policy indirectly promotes the violation of other school rules. Some students resort to contacting their parents through text messaging or something similar in order to arrange a rendezvous, bypassing BLS's stringent pick-up policy. While text messaging does break school rules, desperate students will do just about anything to ensure that they have their materials on time.

Papers and projects are not the only things that are no longer given to students when they are needed. Students who forget their lunches at home have to decide between going hungry for the rest of the day or risking a school lunch. Ultimately, because of the school's new policy, students usually end up kneeling over a lunch table with growling stomachs. Sleep-deprived students who stay up late for the sake of education should not be punished with lack of nutrition as well. Food, as we all know, is vital to good health and, indirectly, to our ability to think and perform in school. If we do

DELIVERY
Continued on page 8

FORUM

Letters to The Argo

Dear Editors,

The lack of coffee and stricter tardy detention detailed in articles last issue are not the only results of new rules this year. The other day I was sitting in my study, quietly working on some homework and listening to my iPod, when my teacher looked up, he noticed this and told me to put it away. I did so and began to wonder to myself, what did that accomplish? As far as I can tell, it briefly distracted him, along with the other students, and caused me to lose focus on what I was doing.

Unless you have been living under a rock, you know about the policies forbidding the use of cell phones and other electronic entertainment and communication devices at school. If caught using such a device, either it will be confiscated or you will be told to put it away. This is strictly enforced for cell phones, but is sometimes lax for music devices, which certain teachers overlook.

If the rule were altered to officially allow the use of iPods in studies, what would be the repercussions? As far as I can tell, there are none. Some students just want to listen to music during a study and will work better as a result. The benefits of listening to Ludwig van Beethoven while working have been proven, and I'm certain that the ability to listen to an audiobook of Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis" or a podcast about current events encourages our "contemporary classical education." In addition, students will be less tempted to whisper and distract others.

I propose that the administration change the rule to allow the use of portable entertainment devices during studies on a provisional basis. Individual teachers should be able to tell students to put them away if they are being played too loudly or prohibit them entirely in their studies. Additionally, the rule could permit only upperclassmen to use them during their studies in the first manifestation of the forever elusive "senior privileges."

—Mark O'Donnell, I

Dear *Argo*,

In response to last issue's article "Puter Peeves," I couldn't agree more with Amber Cranston's (II) message. As one of the many students in our school who depend on the computer labs in the morning, I was very disappointed to see the dreaded sign on the lab in 014, marking its closure for the year. What I found particularly insulting was that there was no explanation. We students are left to wonder why this lab is closed, leading to more unanswered questions. I also think room 016, the other lab, was too chaotic. As I witnessed it, the majority of activity going on there was done by fivesies who were printing out thousands of pages from SparkNotes about novels they were reading in class. Inevitably, there are days when the printer is out of paper or ink. And how about those days when there are paper jams? The most desperate of us take the brave leap of faith and go to the library, only to be refused with the cold answer of "the library isn't open in the morning." This is hypocritical; at the opening assembly, they preach the mantra of "we're here to help you," yet when we need it, they either refuse or help only reluctantly. This year, finally, they have begun posting up their hours on the door and have become a little more student-friendly in the morning. One solution to this problem of computer scarcity is to allow more labs in the school to be open, such as ones outside the basement in 312, 306, 206 and other rooms.

Sincerely,
Erica Moise, I

We'll save space for your responses. Email your thoughts, questions, suggestions, commentaries or criticisms to blsargo.talkback@gmail.com. Please include your name and class. We look forward to hearing from you!

It's No Time for Games with China

BY WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A huge, dark shadow falls over Tibet, crouching over his meager yet healthy lunch. "Hey, Tibet," calls out the shadow, materializing into the menacing form of China. "I... uh... left my lunch at home," China says, while bits of food dribble from the corner of his mouth. "Could you spare a bit of money?" The ominous sound of a fist smacking into a meaty palm is heard, and Tibet regretfully reaches deep into his pocket, drawing out a few crumpled bills and a rusty quarter. China smirks and moves on down the table. Who has the *deck doi* to stand up to this bully?

With the potential for food fights and the threat of worldwide wars, I often find myself concerned about how world politics resemble an elementary school cafeteria. If the United Nations were trusted as a lunch monitor, he'd probably let kids climb onto the roof as a fun "excursionary activity." Events in real life usually seem even more grotesque than in these examples.

It is hard not to acknowledge China's presence these days. In less than a year, Beijing will be hosting the 29th Summer Olympics. It has been growing in power and influence, with the world's third largest economy, a fifth of the world's population and, perhaps most importantly, nuclear weapons. In our global pond, only so many big fish can be accommodated, especially when the United States puffs itself up like a blowfish with its massive military budget.

When nations came into power in the past, they would start to push their weight around. The U.S. once guzzled down the Philippines and Puerto Rico, and Europe became morbidly obese on three-fourths of the world. The methods

of these nations are now seen as being questionable at the very least, or even terrible. And China's tactics are no exception. But expectations have since changed; individual nations are not always held accountable for their actions.

In today's the world of politics, some things are taboo. Not surprisingly, these include supporting genocide, backing dictators and randomly invading inde-

countrywide demonstrations demanding an end to military rule, the military junta ordered troops to open fire on unarmed Buddhist monks. China's support for the regime may have internally wavered, but never publicly faltered.

Last, but certainly not least, China has occupied Tibet for 50 years, exiling its political and spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and prohibiting free speech.

things can go on behind his back. Even as President Bush gives the Dalai Lama the Congressional Gold Medal for his attempts to bring freedom to his homeland, the United States itself is engaged in an offensive war not only of unknown duration or cost, but also for unknown reasons.

There is a possibility that Washington's stance toward China will change when a new president takes office. But

without any pressure on China, things won't change any time soon. The Communist Party seems to be here to stay, and even if its economic policies are communist in name only, it also does not care too much about the average Darfurian, Burman or Tibetan.

That is why it is important to consider the ramifications of having the Olympics in China. Should a nation with that track record really be hosting athletes and featuring press attention from around the world? There is a historical precedent for boycotts of the Olympics. In 1980, the United States hosted a "Boycott Olympics" in Philadelphia to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. More than 60 countries attended



A TIDE OF BUDDHIST MONKS MARCH IN BURMA

pendent countries. In the ongoing and almost inexplicably unstoppable genocide in Darfur, industrial China's thirst for oil plays a leading role. China sells weaponry and provides political support to the Sudanese government in defiance of a U.N. embargo, thus prolonging the genocide. In return, China's state-owned oil company controls over half of Sudan's oil production.

China's need for energy is leading it to go against international sanctions and continue trading with the Burmese government, a military dictatorship that has controlled Myanmar (Burma) since 1962. When Burmese monks recently staged

Googling "free Tibet" in China, or of all places, Tibet, gets the unfortunate web surfer some pretty nasty consequences. Since 2001, Yahoo!, one of the many American search engines that have opened up services in Asia, has turned over the identities of Chinese journalists and citizens to their government for discussing pro-democracy movements, many of whom were promptly imprisoned for as long as 10 years.

And China is not the only country doing things that aren't liked by the international community. After all, while Mr. U.N. is trying to prevent his students from playing on the roof, all kinds of

in Philadelphia, including China. Today, the organizations Students for a Free Tibet, Reporters Without Borders and the Genocide Intervention Network are all calling for a boycott of the 2008 Beijing Olympics on the grounds of Tibetan sovereignty, repression of free speech and involvement in Darfur, respectively.

We desperately need to clear up our relationship with China and work with it to respect human rights. While we all enjoy our cheap "Made in China" products that allow us to get shoes or computers for a few dollars less, any elementary schooler can tell you that the only people less liked than bullies are their willing sidekicks.

FORUM

Blackwater: Fedex for the US Army?

BY SAMANTHA KAUFMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

The United States is supposedly a paradigm of democracy. We claim to be the beacon of morality for the rest of the world and think that somehow, we always know best. Clearly these ideas are gone; we are involved in one of the the most unpopular contemporary wars and are perceived worldwide as a bully. You don't like us? Well, tough, 'cause we can beat you up. Even more so, our State Department has been embroiled in more scandals than they can explain. As citizens we can no longer trust those in charge of this so-called "War on Terrorism." More importantly, it is frustrating that the Bush administration continues to shove our once economically, politically and militarily supreme country into the ground.

Right now in Iraq, there are about 170,000 troops deployed on the ground. That massive number does not tell the full story. In addition to these American troops, there are about 100,000 private contractors working in Iraq, though no one knows the true number because the State Department, who hired them, has not disclosed that information. Though they may sound more like construction workers, private

contractors have been hired to go to Iraq because there is not enough Army personnel: our nation's military is spread painfully thin. It would be unthinkable to the

by the military.

The majority of these civilian workers are involved in non-combat duties, but anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000

"security consulting firms," Blackwater Worldwide is the most well-known in Iraq and the most controversial.

The company is run by Erik Prince, an extremely right-wing religious conservative who happens to be rich—to the tune of \$2.4 billion. Prince was a major contributor to George W. Bush's election campaign. In the late 80's, when he interned for George H.W. Bush at age 22, he said, "I saw a lot of things I didn't agree with—homosexual groups being invited in [to the White House], the budget agreement [which raised taxes], the Clean Air Act [which was an expense to business], those kind of bills." Updates to the Clean Air Act have passed with bipartisan support since 1963. After all, everyone benefits from cleaner air. Do we really want somebody who puts money before public health to be in charge of a private army? Maybe he'll put people's lives on the line in order to earn a few extra bucks.

Prince has also likened what Blackwater could be to the U.S. military to what FedEx has done to the U.S. Postal Service. He thinks that privatization of the military could lead to a superior fighting force. Mr. Prince



SOLDIERS FROM BLACKWATER ROAM THE STREETS IN DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA

American people for our government to institute a draft like in wars past; instead, they hire private firms to have civilians do the jobs in Iraq that were once handled

individuals are involved in military activities. Effectively, they are mercenaries that the State Department has hired to do the U.S. military's dirty work in Iraq. Of these

A for Effort

BY DENISE NGUYEN, II
ASSISTANT A & E EDITOR

At the beginning of each new term, students await their report cards with much anticipation. On the morning they are distributed, some students groan while others rejoice. Many of these students inspect their grades very carefully. They have their TI-83s ready and immediately begin punching buttons to calculate that all-important acronym: the GPA. Students who are really GPA-obsessed sometimes resort to grade-grubbing—trying to get that A changed to an A+ so that they can have 0.025 added to the final GPA.

But if you get past the groans and calculations and actually take the time to look at the other areas of your report card, you may find things that you didn't notice before. For example, the conduct column. It is flooded with grades ranging from A to F depending on how well you can follow the rules in class.

Then, if you glance a little to the right, you will find the blank "Effort Column" (also known as the "EFF. Column").

This absence of grades may come as frustrating to anyone who answers yes to the following questions: have you ever spent hours on a graded piece of homework just to get the same grade as someone who did it during homeroom? Are you jealous of classmates who are able to finish a homework assignment at lunch

that took you all night to complete?

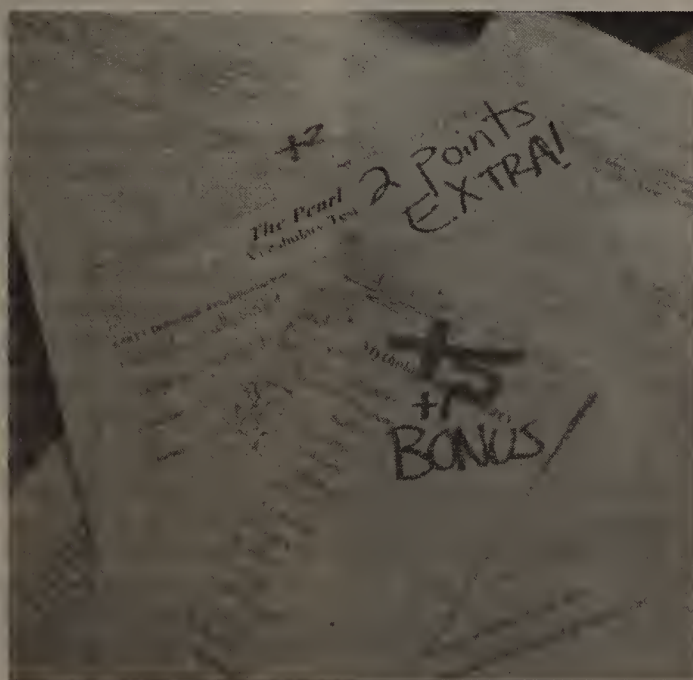
There are certainly some who are open to the idea of effort being counted. These are the individuals who believe that effort should be incorporated into a student's final grade. Nevertheless, there are others who question how teachers would go about calculating a numerical grade for effort.

When I asked my fellow classmates whether a grade for effort should go toward a student's final grade, I received mixed reactions. A few were cynical. Huy Vo (II) said, "Although effort seems like it should count, it doesn't in the real world. The people who put a lot of effort into things and end up getting bad results won't pull through in life. It's the people with pure intelligence that makes the difference. They are the people who are going to get somewhere."

Others are more supportive of the idea. Enid Franco (II) says, "Effort doesn't count now, but it does in the long run." When asked whether she thought there was a way for teachers to incorporate effort into grade percentages, however, she responded that teachers "would not be able to keep track of effort."

Next, I investigated the opinions of teachers. Some teachers openly tell

KILA WERLEM (II)



DOES A GRADE IN EFFORT BELONG ON THE REPORT CARD OR SHOULD IT BE IN THE TERM GRADE

A FOR EFFORT
Continued on page 8

Universal Jurisdiction

BY MARIA WEISSMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

The twentieth century was the deadliest in history. With two world wars and multiple genocides, humanity witnessed a plethora of human rights abuses, from Armenia to Iraq. The word "genocide" was coined after WWII to describe the systematic annihilation of certain groups of people. Despite the international community's promise to never allow atrocities like the Holocaust to occur again, crimes continued in the subsequent decades. Unsurprisingly, in places ranging from Afghanistan to Burma, Chechnya to Darfur, crimes against humanity have continued into this century.

With each new transgression, a few aspects remain the same: scores of innocent people are killed, while only a handful of those responsible are tried and convicted. Often, those guilty of heinous offenses live unpunished, which has set the precedent that leaders can commit equally terrible crimes without facing repercussion.

One proposition that could prevent human rights infringements from continuing unchecked is for every state to enact laws supporting universal jurisdiction. This principle, as defined by Amnesty International, "provides that national courts can investigate and prosecute a person suspected of committing a crime anywhere in

the world regardless of the nationality of the accused or the victim or the absence of any links to the state where the court is located." If employed judiciously, it could be an extremely effective tool for ending human rights abuses. The hope is that the global community would unite and cite it in order to prosecute criminals if their own country is unwilling or too unstable to do so. Since the perpetrators would have nowhere to hide, it would become easier to bring justice to the victims. It could also dissuade future transgressors from committing crimes against humanity, as they would realize they can no longer outrun justice.

In late 2000, the former president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, fled to Japan to avoid the growing condemnation of his human rights abuses. He later travelled to Chile, and was detained by Chilean authorities. They released him on the condition

that he remain in the country. Peru asked for him to be extradited, but this was initially refused. He was eventually returned to Peru, however, after appeals to the Supreme Court were granted, and he remains in detention today.

Variations of universal jurisdiction have been used on occasion in countries, but no state has this principle completely



FORMER PERUVIAN PRESIDENT, FUJIMORI, IS BEING DETAINED IN PERU FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION
Continued on page 8

FORUM

DELIVERY*Continued from page 5*

not eat, then food preoccupies our mind. If we are too busy thinking about food, then how are we supposed to concentrate on our education?

BLACKWATER*Continued from page 7*

has acquired contracts from his good buddy Mr. Bush for tens of millions of dollars, but at this point more in the neighborhood of hundreds of millions for his services in Iraq. Often these private contractors are used as personal security guards, hired so that the military can concentrate on suppressing the daily insurrections occurring.

At the end of Paul Bremer's leadership as provisional head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, he granted immunity from prosecution in Iraqi courts to all of the private contractors working in the country. Furthermore, be-

The policy seems to be aimed at weeding out forgetfulness before it becomes a habit. But instituting an oppressive system is not the way to go. This policy is inconsiderate of the burden caring parents bear when they take the effort to accommodate their children.

cause of other legal loopholes, contractors cannot be prosecuted here in the United States either. Because they technically do not work for the military, they also cannot be prosecuted under martial law. This has created an extremely dangerous situation in Iraq, the details of which are just now beginning to come to light. It's been said that Bush has created a "wild west" scenario out there—no laws and a lot of firepower. Blackwater, and other similar outfits, are not governed by any law and have taken advantage of it: only now are they finally being investigated for the many reports of their illegal use of arms. Various cases have surfaced, including the alleged drunken killing of a security guard of the Iraqi vice president

If the administration really wanted to curb forgetfulness they should give each student one "get out of jail free" card. This would mean students would not be punished if they forgot their stuff on one occasion. An approach like this would probably get more support from students

by a Blackwater employee on Christmas Eve in 2006.

How can we, citizens of a country that is supposed to be in Iraq to help the Iraqis create a free and democratic country, allow our own lawless men to kill at random and literally get away with murder? Diplomatically, we are shooting ourselves in the foot. The Iraqis do not see these "private security firms" as private security firms; they see them as Americans. Not only are we further damaging our nation's tarnished image there, but we are doing it by paying corporations hundreds of millions of dollars. Members of our own military are jealous of the extra money that these other men are being paid. The men and women fighting under

because it recognizes that human error is unavoidable. It is unfair for both students and the administration to assume that just because we go to the Latin School we have to be perfect. The truth is, we are not perfect and forgetfulness is just another one of our many flaws.

our flag are woefully underpaid compared to the men in Blackwater outfits, who pull in anywhere from a couple hundred to a thousand dollars a day. In a month, some make the same amount that a U.S. marine would make in a year. How is this fair?

Allowing mercenaries to do our bidding in Iraq is not working. If we do not stop this blight on our military soon, their services could expand here, to the homeland. They already were deployed for law enforcement in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. We cannot make the situation any better for our own military or Iraqi civilians by letting these lawless men roam the streets with AK-47s. We are the United States of America, and we better start living up to what that means.

GRADES AND EFFORT*Continued from page 7*

their students that effort doesn't count in high school or in college. "Save the effort for elementary school," they say. On the other hand, there are some teachers who do give students a grade for effort. They translate a grade in effort as a measure of your participation in class, and not just by

the number of times you raise your hand, but also by your level of attentiveness. But what if someone was really good at faking attention? Take Sean Walsh (II), for example. He is able to sleep in class with his eyes open. "It looks like I'm giving the teacher my full attention by staring at them unblinkingly," he says, "but I'm really dreaming about what I'll have for dinner."

The dictionary defines effort as "an earnest attempt," but how can teachers gauge a student's level of earnestness? Almost everyone agrees that grades are not a good representation of intelligence. They are not a good representation of effort, either. A teacher's impression of a student's effort is not necessarily accurate because it is human to be unwittingly prejudiced. A measurement of effort

would likely end up being a matter of the teacher's personal opinion. Subjective issues should seldom be included in grading.

So what do I say to those people who are hardworking and frustrated? Let me steal a few words from Mr. Austin-Breneman: "Grades do not measure anything except how well you play the game."

UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION*Continued from page 7*

incorporated into their laws. Often, if a state tries to invoke it in a trial, sharp criticism follows. An obvious issue is that the law can vary from nation to nation. In addition, there is a realistic fear that certain nations might use universal jurisdiction to further their political agenda.

The International Criminal Court was established in 2002 with the aim of being a permanent, unbiased international court. It strives to both bring justice to victims of egregious human rights violations and discourage potential perpetrators from committing such crimes. Exercising a compromised version of universal jurisdiction, it can only try cases concerning genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Individuals are prosecuted based on one of three requirements: if the individual's country has ratified the ICC's treaty, if the alleged crime took place within the territory of a member state, or if the case is referred to the court by the UN Security Council. The Court is not supposed to supercede national courts, but instead complement them, essentially functioning as an alternative court system when the nation's own courts are unable to prosecute. Despite the ICC's attempt to not infringe on national sovereignty, many states, including the U.S., criticize it for doing just that.

The ICC is currently trying to prosecute two individuals, Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Rahman, who were arrested for 51 charges include crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in 2003 and 2004. The court is having a difficult time getting Sudan to release them. Sudan claims that doing so would threaten their national sovereignty. This echoes the sentiments of other nations who worry about the impact the ICC could have on their respective citizens. George W. Bush has expressed fears that American soldiers would be unfairly prosecuted and convicted if the ICC had jurisdiction in the US. Such concerns seem to hamper the efficacy of the ICC.

Another problem is that most humanitarian issues are not as morally obvious as, for instance, the Holocaust. People can obviously say without flinching that the Nazis were the perpetrators of the Holocaust, while the Jews and other targeted groups were the victims. Unfortunately, individuals connected with war crimes of the 21st century blur the line between victim and perpetrator, civilian and terrorist, soldier and transgressor. Terrorist organizations do not represent nations, and yet they pose a grave threat to international security. Nevertheless, terrorists are legally still civilians, not armed soldiers. The threat of terrorism has presented a quandary for many nations. In some cases, governments have chosen to respond to terrorism by curtailing the human rights of the accused. The US established an internment at Guantanamo Bay, where the Geneva Convention doesn't apply to the prisoners, and human rights abuses are flagrant. The US has yet to assent to the jurisdiction of an international court within its borders.

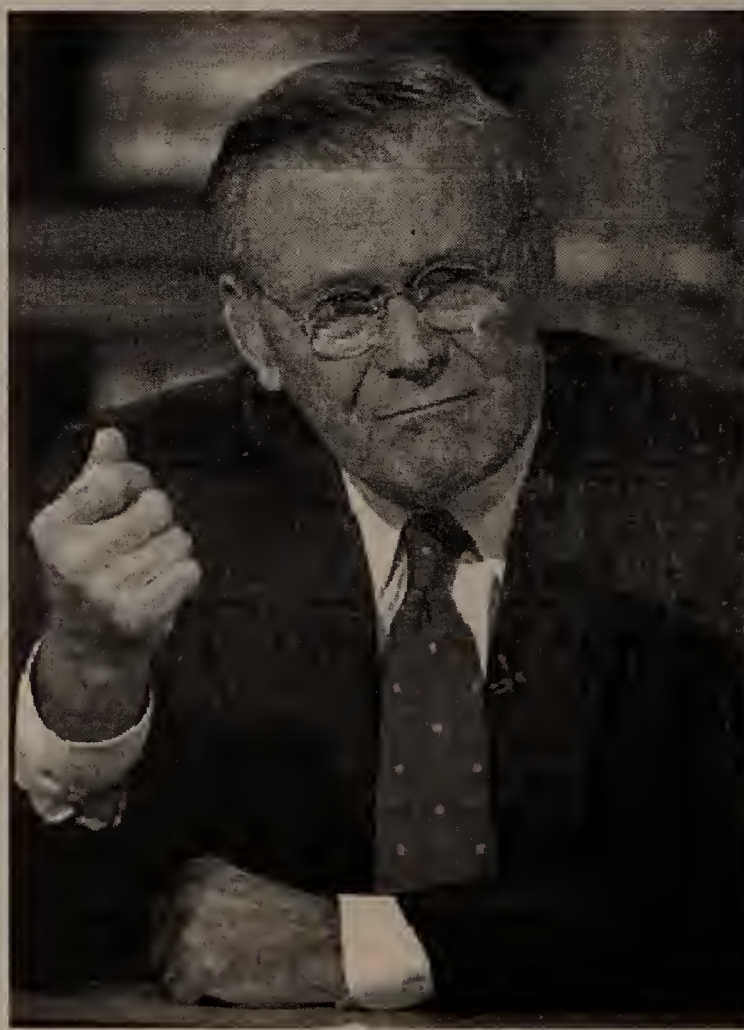
The inevitable question follows: is it right for U.S. citizens to be above the jurisdiction of an international treaty that 105 other nations have ratified? The U.S. has the most troops deployed in bases overseas, leading Americans to have a proportionally higher risk of coming under attack from other ICC signatory nations. It may not be right for the U.S. to deem its citizens immune to international law, but it is rather easy for countries that benefit

from U.S. defense aid to be disdainful of its actions. The U.S. is, of course, fearful of prosecution aimed at its soldiers and government officials. The ICC has the ability to potentially supercede the authority of the Supreme Court and not grant US citizens legal protections offered by the Bill of Rights.

While The U.S. might not agree with certain elements of the ICC, the Bush Administration's response the

take measure that curb international progress against human rights abuses. Opposition to the policies of the court is not an excuse to casually write a death sentence for the ICC. Intimidation tactics are not a solution to a predicament, but rather an additional obstacle for universal jurisdiction. While its not perfect, the ICC still provides a possible step in the right direction. The blood of at least 400,000 Darfuris already stains the history of the nascent 21st century; it is clear that changes definitely need to be made in how the global community combats human rights transgressions.

It may be unreasonable to ask the United States to put global needs above its own, but these needs should still be more than an afterthought. To shamelessly quote Stan Lee, "With great power comes great responsibility." The United States ought to use its great power to provide viable solutions to promote a world with stronger ethics. Just because the government disagrees with some of the ICC's policies doesn't mean it shouldn't move toward conciliation. Even if our nation does not become a signed member, it could at least support the court in a case-by-case manner. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Indeed, it is only through the sacrifice and struggle of dedicated individuals that society has ever been able to progress. Attempts to improve deplorable conditions for victims of human rights abuses may never be without shortcomings, but this is by no means an excuse to condemn such attempts, ignoring the possibility of improvement. The United States has the ability to assist in marking this century as one where crimes against humanity are rare rather than frequent and accepted as inevitable. The first step is establishing a system that brings perpetrators to justice. It's time that the US steps up and proves to the international community that we will always be a nation that values the inherent rights of human beings worldwide.



RUMSFELD WAS CHARGED UNDER UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION FOR SETTING UP GUANTANAMO BAY AND ILLEGALLY DETAINING INDIVIDUALS

Court is appalling. Bush has chosen to retaliate against the court by prohibiting military aid to countries that have ratified the court's treaty. The U.S. has valid arguments against the court, but using such bullying tactics to convince other nations to undermine the ICC's authority is stunting the united efforts of the of the global community to curb war crimes and genocidal acts.

We ought to set a precedent, not

A & E Hollywood at a Loss for Words

BY ANDY VO, IV
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

Supported by both the East and West divisions, the Writers Guild of America officially went on strike at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, November 5, 2007 to protest against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). The original plan was to strike during the summer of 2008 to coincide with expiring contracts, but the WGA decided to protest early to deal an even bigger blow to the AMPTP by interfering with the fall television season. The goal of the two groups was to receive an agreement stating how much money writers will get for DVD sales.

The last strike by the Guild was in 1988 for a similar argument: videotape (VHS) sales. This earlier strike cost the industry about \$500 million, and the AMPTP eventually settled with 0.3 percent of the revenue given for the first million dollars of VHS sales and 0.36 percent of the rest of the earnings. As VHS distribution declined and was replaced by DVDs, the writers had yet to change their old settlement to fit toward DVDs and the rising market of online TV and film sales. The companies claim that making a deal will surely hinder attempts to experiment with newer media

(Internet downloads, video on demand, smart phone programs). Until a deal is made, approximately 12,000 writers will be affected by the strike.

While the writers picket in front of Rockefeller Plaza and other locations, many TV shows are already beginning to feel the impact of the strike. Late night shows were the first to air reruns, and Jay Leno and Steve Carrell are some of many TV personalities who refuse to cross picket lines. The next to be affected will be the daytime television shows, which have only made enough episodes to last until January 2008. I personally cringe at the thought of not having those inventive plot twists, random aging of babies and surprise pregnancies. Some notable shows, without any written episodes, are *24* (delayed until the whole season can air uninterrupted), *The Office* and *Saturday Night Live*. How can we live without Jim playing more pranks on Dwayne or without hearing more about feline AIDS? Until a deal is settled, however, the reruns will air and the only unaffected programs (programs without union writers, game shows and reality shows) will take over.

In the not-so-distant future of 2008, all that will be on TV will be drunken camera confessionals and middle-aged housewives winning money based on models opening boxes. At least we'll still have *COPS*.

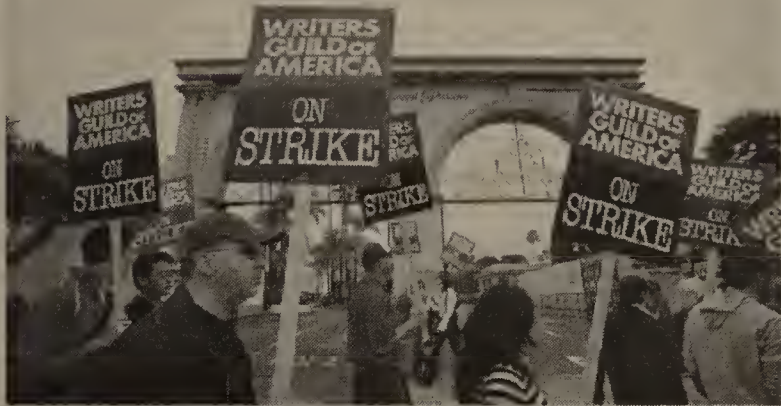
If both sides continue to be as uncompromising as they are, this strike will last just about, if not longer than, five months as it did in 1988. From a TV viewer's point of view, the WGA

issue seems to be a clear-cut fight of good versus evil, especially from the perspective of celebrities like Tina Fey and Conan O'Brien, both of whom have worked as writers. Of course, the writers are not without blame. The WGA has implemented complete halts to writing with campaigns such as "Pencils Down Means Pencils Down," a self-explanatory threat to writers who may feel the need to finish up a story or write scripts.

They have also used somewhat manipulative tactics during their striking, such as bringing their children to picket with American flags on Veteran's Day. While the WGA isn't technically doing anything wrong, it is walking on a very thin line toward attacking the AMPTP and forgetting the goal.

So what's going to happen with this whole writer's strike? The support for the writers will likely grow and, after enduring a

couple of months of reruns and horrible game show programs, the AMPTP will unwillingly make a deal with the writers for fear of delaying the next few TV seasons as well. And if I'm wrong... I guess we'll just have to get used to seeing our own reflection on Howie Mandel's head. Thanks, but No Deal.



PARADING IN FRONT OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

has my support to strike against the repression of the colloquial "Man." Because of the way the companies are forcing their hyphenates (people with dual jobs, such as writer-producers) to either work or be suspended, it doesn't seem that their goal is to win America's support. The WGA versus AMPTP

Ask the Argo

Dear *Argo*,

I have quite the problem. My teacher is driving me crazy! He only wants to hear his own opinion and talks down to us all the time. He assigns way too much work for the class I signed up for, and I'm worried that this unreasonable teacher is going to bring down my GPA. A lot of other students (more than 30!) caught on and transferred out, but I decided to stick it out and now I'm screwed! What should I do?

—Sad, Tired, Unappreciated
Cranky Kid

Dear STUCK,

Who are you, a mere high school student—and a bitter one who doesn't know his place—to call a teacher, who has dedicated his or her life to try to make yours worth living, unreasonable? No. It is *you* who are unreasonable, for clearly not being able to read minds, duh. Here are some ideas on how to deal with this situation:

1. *Talk to someone who got an A.* First term has come and gone, so ask around for who got an A in the class. Chances

are they figured out how to work the class to their advantage, and I'm sure they can give you some helpful tips on handling such an irrational person.

2. *Kiss some butt.* We understand that this is probably the most undesirable of all the options, but if the teacher is as fickle as you say, then your best shot is to be on his or her good side—all the time. Beware; while this will earn you points with your teacher, it's pretty doubtful that your classmates will be all that fond of your new friend.

3. *Transfer schools.* Hey, it's always an option, but we at the *Argo* suggest that you try the first two before resorting to this one.

But remember that this is school, and sometimes you really have to work for your grade. With classes like this, the only way to get the A is to do an obscenely large amount of work. So set your priorities, consider what grade you need and work for it. If problems persist, talk to your guidance counselor, work with your classmates and remember that high school has to end eventually.

We know who you're talking about.

—The *Argo*

Hey *Argo*!

My boyfriend is driving me crazy! I like him a lot, but he always calls me at the weirdest hours. He's super sweet, but if he calls me at 2 a.m. to see how my day was again, I am going to freak! I've tried to tell him that I need to sleep, but he just doesn't seem to pay attention to that. How do I convince him that I need rest?

—Terribly Irrate, Rude Every Day

Dear TIRED,

Let's break down your problem. You think your boyfriend is awesome, and that is not a problem. It just makes other readers with abusive alcoholic boyfriends jealous. Your boyfriend calls you in the middle of the night and wakes you up. There are actually two problems: your boyfriend probably has insomnia and you're not getting any sleep. The answer to the first problem is your

boyfriend needs to ask his doctor about Lunesta. If he's not awake at two in the morning, he won't be calling you. (If he still does, he's probably sleep-calling and you can email us again and we'll think up something else. Possibly involving some sort of restraining device)

On your own end, you probably aren't a deep sleeper, are you, Ms. Irrate? If perhaps if *you* asked *your* doctor about Lunesta, you probably won't be woken up by his call. Since he's also the source of the problem, you could also break up with him. That also works.

Finally, the obvious solution is to turn off your phone. Most phones don't turn on magically in the middle of the night, even if its your boyfriend. When you wake up, you can listen to his caring voice message.

Sincerely,
The *Argo*

If you have a problem you need help with, email A&E at blsargo.ae@gmail.com and have the Argonauts solve your issues!

Lambs Chops at the War

BY ZOE CUIPYLO-WATKINS, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Jasper Irving (Tom Cruise) said, "Never have I seen such lions led by such lambs," he summed up all the relationships in Robert Redford's new film, *Lions for Lambs*. While the movie has a star-studded cast, including Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, it can't quite live up to the hype often generated by such an exemplary lineup. The movie has some good qualities that sometimes keep the viewers engaged, but it mostly lags to the point where they end up constantly checking their watches until the end of the movie.

Lions for Lambs has several different subplots that connect to one central story: two injured soldiers (Pena and Luke) stranded on an Afghan mountain-side and being attacked by insurgents.

Meanwhile, back in California, the soldiers' old political science teacher, Stephen Malley (Redford), tells the soldiers' back-story: they came from bad neighborhoods, got scholarships and then quit graduate school to join the army. Talking with Redford is Todd Hayes (Garfield), a frat boy who believes that he can show the same potential as the two soldiers. Meanwhile, in Washington D.C.,



CRUISE TRIES TO GAIN CONTROL

an ambitious politician, Jasper Irving, meets with reporter Janine Roth (Streep), whom he intends to use to influence the war on terror. These concepts, seemingly academic and unimportant, directly affect the two soldiers trapped on the Afghan mountainside, making each word that Irving utters seem to put the lives of the protagonists

on the line.

At times a sad and harrowing tale, *Lions for Lambs* deals with issues raised by the current war on terror. "Whatever it takes!" is Irving's catchphrase, and Cruise perfectly portrays an ambitious politician striving for the presidency and willing to sacrifice the lives of soldiers for what he believes to be the good of the country. On the other hand, Streep shines as the suspicious and slightly neurotic journalist Roth, who is aware of the hypocrisy of her articles, but doesn't challenge it due to pressure from her boss.

The tale is sympathetic, but the dialogue, which at times can seem inaccessible, often kills the viewer's interest.

GPA: 2.8
TOO MUCH SCIENTOLOGY, NOT ENOUGH SCIENCE.

Spotlight
Julia Gallogly



JULIA GALLOGLY (B)

BY PATRICIA GIUNTA, I
STAFF WRITER

When most people think of Julia Gallogly, only one thing comes to mind: triplets. To the untrained eye, Julia seems indistinguishable from her two sisters, Meredith and Lynn. Perhaps it is because seemingly all three triplets—not to mention the fourth Gallogly, Rose—are musical prodigies.

When she's not busy getting confused with one of her fellow triplets, Julia is living the glamorous life of a full-fledged band geek. She'll be the first to admit that everything she does revolves around music and it would probably take every word of this spotlight just to highlight her musical achievements. Julia has long been known as the greatest clarinetist ever to grace the halls of the band wing and her musical talent has spread in outside competitions, too. She has participated in Junior and Senior Districts and All-State since eighth grade and if her intense practice sessions are any indication, she'll be accepted again this year.

Julia first started getting involved with music in the third grade with piano, though she is quick to point out that it's not her strongest instrument. Nevertheless, it fueled her interest in music and she began her illustrious woodwind career with the clarinet in fifth grade. The rest is history. Julia continued to take clarinet lessons even as she began at Boston Latin School and soon began to master other instruments. Julia can now play both the E-flat and B-flat clarinets, and the alto, tenor and soprano saxophones.

Julia's multi-instrumentalism has spanned the entire music department. In just six years, she has participated almost religiously in Football Band, Concert Band, Junior Jazz Band, Big Band and Honors Orchestra. Her musicality is perhaps most appreciated in Big Band, where she was the only female member for two years straight and is perhaps the most talented soloist there. Julia is quick to rise to the challenge of soloing and always seems to have an cornucopia of ideas for her masterful performances.

To all of us who know Julia as more than just a Gallogly triplet, it is clear that she is one of the most genuinely kind people you will ever meet. It seems as though she has no capacity for hatred, but her sense of humor and energy aren't in the least lacking. Sitting next to Julia in almost every band—not to mention AP Music Theory—definitely has its benefits: she always lightens the mood and is always contributing to jokes around her. It will never be boring around Julia.

No matter what Julia is doing, she puts all of her effort into it. Julia is highly diligent and that same quality is what makes her one of the most unforgettable people you could ever meet.

A & E Masters Master the Art of Fashion

BY STEPHANIE RUFO, II
& ELIZABETH ZAPPALA, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Many Boston Latin School students think that the only thing their teachers can teach them is math or English. Surprisingly that's not always the case. We recently discovered that certain members of the Latin School staff are fashionable to the point where we were actually impressed with their wardrobe. Shocking, isn't it, that your teacher can dress just as trendily as you do? As unbelievable as it may seem, it is so very true. When reading this article, boys and girls, you may want to take notes.

Many of you may have been witness to her "posh" new haircut and flawless style, but for those of you who haven't seen Ms. Figueroa, you should know that if dress-up was a class in school, she would be an A+ student. Inspired by the Marc Jacobs line and the style of Jennifer Lopez, Ms. Figueroa knows what she's looking for when shopping at her usual hot spots, Anthropologie and Nordstrom. Although these may seem like high-price stores, Ms. Figueroa knows how to bargain shop, suggesting Bloomingdales and Georgia



ELIZABETH ZAPPALA (B)

GETTIN' FIGGY WITH IT

Shoes in Jamaica Plain for some great grabs. Ms. Figueroa's use of shoes to complement her outfits provides incredible variety and demonstrates her knack for an eclectic taste. Her classic look and desire to be trendy yet timeless makes her style unbeatable. As for the haircut, Ms. Figueroa wanted to donate her hair and she loved Victoria "Posh" Beckham's haircut—and thus her short, new do. According to Ms. Figueroa, the secret to this season's fashion is leggings. Shopping twice a week seems like an unbelievable feat for a high school English teacher

with a baby boy at home, but Ms. Figueroa is a pro at time management, planning ahead and picking her outfit at night.

And for all you boys wondering how to dress to impress, look no further than Mr. Britto. His classy, conservative look is simple, yet extremely stylish. Keeping up with the times, Mr. Britto's look is inspired by the fashion line of English designer Oswald Boateng. Although Mr. Britto is not much of a bargain shopper, his fashion taste remains strong, shopping at stores such as Express, Banana Republic, Guess and Armani Exchange.



ELIZABETH ZAPPALA (B)

THEY'RE WEARING PURPLE, BY THE WAY.

One item that Mr. Britto cannot go without this fall is a pea coat; it's a must-have that will pull any outfit together. Wear it with jeans or pin-striped pants, and the effect is still the same. Fall fashion is

about layering, an easy step to looking trendy and perfect for the ever-changing weather. The typical neutral color scheme makes it simple to mix and match items, a technique that Mr. Britto has mastered. In their high school

days, Ms. Figueroa and Mr. Britto were much like they are now, following trends. Ms. Figueroa loved short-shorts, as well as loads of accessories. She always dressed up for school and loved color. Mr. Britto wore jeans with Abercrombie jackets, fitted hats and Adidas shelltoes. In 2007, however, high school fashion fall essentials for girls include puffy sleeves and colorful pumps in any rich color, and all you guys should invest in a classic sweater vest and a worn blazer. Leaving us with some final fashion tips Ms. Figueroa says, "Dress for your body." And Mr. Britto gives you boys with some excellent advice: "Invest in a good cologne instead of axe. Ask for it for Christmas." We completely agree.

Say Anything Says It All

BY ZACHARY PAGE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Say Anything's principal songwriter and front man Max Bemis was hospitalized after a nervous breakdown and diagnosed with bipolar disorder, many fans wondered if the young pop artist behind 2004's awe-inspiring "...Is A Real Boy" would ever be able to return to the recording studio again. As it turns out, a year in the hospital has done wonders for the talented 23-year-old behind one of the more inventive and genuine groups of the 21st century, and with *In Defense of the Genre*, Bemis and his band have returned with a massive two-disc set that reads like a pop encyclopedia. From tender folk songs to jumpy electronica rave-ups, Say Anything covers all the bases, simultaneously touching on searing emo, 50s elevator style doo-wop and everything in between.

While opener "Skinny, Mean Man" isn't as strong as the memorable and much-loved "Belt" from their debut album, it still leaves an impression as one of the louder and more familiar sounding songs on the first disc. After that, the album immediately veers into territory that would easily divide fans of a lesser band, but after hearing the glitchy electro-acoustic chorus to "No Soul," it should be clear to any listener that Bemis has spent a lot of time

perfecting his craft. Songs like this and the irresistible dance single "Baby Girl, I'm a Blur" bring more keyboards and samples into the mix than some Say Anything fans may be used to, but they do their part by making the first disc all the more diverse. Of course, Bemis still finds numerous ways to incorporate the more traditional elements of their sound into the songs such as "People Like You are Why People Like Me Exist," which undoubtedly contains the heaviest middle eighth that the band has ever written.

If disc one surprises listeners with the sheer volume of genre-hopping that its tracks encompass, then disc two should knock the wind out of any of the band's old fans, as it contains both more cutting commentaries and more plaintive acoustic musings than its more dance-friendly counterpart. Songs like "Spay Me," "The Word You Wield," "I Used To Have a Heart" and the title track practically rip out of the speakers with their eerie verses and snarling choruses, and you can tell immediately that while Bemis may no longer be institutionalized, he's now penning some of his most ferocious material to date. True to the bipolar nature of its premier writer, however, this second disc also offers songs from the softer end of the spectrum such as "Goodbye Young Tutor, You've Outgrown Me," perhaps one of the best examples of Bemis' ability with an

acoustic, and "Plea," which ends the album on both a heart-wrenching melody and a melancholy, yet hopeful note as arena rock guitars step into orchestral flourishes.

In addition to the already excellent array of songs brought to the table, the band has enlisted an A-list cast of some of the emo and pop genres' biggest names with some of the more excellent backing vocals coming from the likes of My Chemical Romance's Gerard Way, Paramore's Haylie Williams and Dashboard Confessional's Chris Carrabba. More importantly, everybody who contributes to the album stays in the background while the well-deserving star of the show, Bemis, maintains center stage.

Like almost any double album, *In Defense of the Genre* isn't perfect, and a few songs, such as "Vexed" and "Spores," actually are too sparse with their arrangements, whereas "Died A Jew" simply falls flat on its face with its well-meaning, but ultimately self-parodying representation of Bemis' ancestry. These small missteps, however, are easily overlooked because of the numerous highlights of what is undoubtedly one of the best albums of the year. If more pop musicians step forth with records as amazing as this one, the genre may not need to be defended any longer.

GPA: 3.5

STILL HAS TIME FOR FRIENDS

A & E

Alpha Dog Gets Justified

By **TERRY BROWN, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Though released as a major motion picture in the U.S., *Alpha Dog* has not been a successful, or even widely-viewed movie. Most people recognize it as “that stupid movie with Justin Timberlake,” and frankly, that’s a travesty. The trailer is not very good nor informative and just from watching it, one does not gain a real understanding of the story. *Alpha Dog* depicts the true story of Jesse James Hollywood, who at 20 years old became the youngest person ever on the FBI’s most wanted list. Unlike many other movies based on true stories, *Alpha Dog* does not sacrifice fact for dramatic effect. The producers and director were given unprecedented access to various documents, tapes and testimonies held by the prosecuting district attorney. The names and city have been altered, and the film possesses a few anachronisms, but the story itself is what actually took place.

The movie begins like this: life is quiet in an affluent California neighborhood. Young, up-and-coming drug dealer Johnny Truelove spends his days smoking, drinking and lifting weights. He is only

20 years old, but already owns a house in a nice neighborhood and a couple of cars. His prosperous drug business pulls in roughly \$50,000 per month. Truelove has created an atmosphere where he reigns supreme over his friends, acquaintances and subordinate dealers. When one of his dealers, Jake Mazursky, fails to repay him, their relationship grows estranged.

Their interactions become more and more tense, until one day when Truelove makes an impulsive, life-altering decision. While driving down the street with his lackeys, Truelove spots Mazursky’s younger brother, Zack, and abducts him. At first, he is beaten and tied up, but by

nightfall, he has been assimilated into the crew while his family and brother are left frantically searching for answers. After learning that the penalty for kidnapping and demanding ransom is a life sentence, Truelove starts to get nervous. The film ends in a manner reminiscent of Italian cinema, and everybody involved is subject to legal proceedings.

Alpha Dog’s story is so dramatic that it seems fictionalized or, the very least, embellished. The events unfold in such a manner that the story is almost “Made for Hollywood.” The film has too many B- and C-list actors, who perform adequately, but not fantastically. The story itself is incredible, but the lackluster production prevents it from being an overall satisfying movie. The film is like seeing one of da Vinci’s masterpieces in black and white—it just can’t be fully appreciated.



WWW.VIEWE.CM

GPA: 3.0
THE INTELLIGENT UNDERACHIEVER

BU Food Lightens the Mood

By **RACHEL TRIPP, IV**
STAFF WRITER

Hidden on Park Drive, in the midst of Boston University’s south campus, is a homey little eatery with a slight Middle Eastern flair called the Crispy Crêpes Café. On the outside, this restaurant looks like an average pizza place, but walk by on a Sunday, and you’ll see that this place is not a well-kept secret. On an average Sunday morning, this 20 or 30 person capacity restaurant appears to be pushing the fire department limits with its massive crowd of almost every college student in the area. Once inside, a diner is surrounded by the comfortable atmosphere of the brick walls and cramped, tiled tables—the usual casual college eatery



WWW.CRISPYCREPESCAFE.COM

setup. Right from when they order, patrons can watch their crêpes being made on a steaming griddle.

Although the restaurant is called Crispy Crêpes Café, the crêpes are soft, delightful and can be filled with anything from nutella chocolate to chicken and rice to jelly and powdered sugar. Their extensive menu covers not only crêpes, but also includes smoothies, pizza, pasta, pancakes and french toast, as well as panini and salads with soda. The quirky dish names such as the Blue (grilled blueberry muffin, cheese omelet, and bacon, \$5.95) and Marrakesh Morning (eggs on a bed of sautéed tomato, onion, pepper and cumin, \$5.35) spark a diner’s attention and appetite, and every bite

of the 16” sweet crêpes such as the Strawberries, Lemon Glaze and Sugar Crêpe (\$5.25) gives a diner twice the satisfaction

for half the price. As one reviewer commented, “Eating these crêpes is a religious experience in itself.” No matter how spicy or sweet, all their crêpes have two things in common: they are both excellent and cheap.

The menu also has offerings for vegetarians and vegans with a whole menu section called Vegetarian crêpes, a very popular one being the Grilled Veggie Crêpe (Portobello, zucchini, onion, tomato, crumbled feta and pesto, \$5.95). Because of the restaurants personable service, family oriented atmosphere, tasty omelettes, side dishes and free refills of coffee, once you enter the Crispy Crêpes Café, you will not want to leave.

The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serves breakfast all day, and has extremely accessible hours, opening at 8 a.m. and closing at midnight. Overall, the food is incredible, the service is friendly and accommodating, the atmosphere is pleasant, and the prices are a steal. And let’s face it: any restaurant that has lines out on the sidewalk must be worth waiting for.

GPA: 4.0
IMMUNE TO SENIORITY

Horoscopes

When a tectonic fault appeared in the Art Wing, Argo was right on the scene. Due to mystical forces, or perhaps gases trapped in the earth, Editor Oliver Anderson soon experienced visions of the future. Like the Oracle of Delphi before him, he now writes here to recount what the gods have told him.

- LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)**
Your ego will take a hit when Al-Qaeda passes you over as a high-value target.
- SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)**
A construction accident will work to your advantage when local evangelicals worship you for your stigmata.
- SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)**
Enjoy Thanksgiving because come November 23, the turkeys shall feast on you.
- CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)**
Analyze the pros and cons of your cat medication addiction because while you always land on your feet, you also test positive for feline diabetes.

- AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)**
Your musical talents will be greatly challenged when Mr. Pitts assigns you the rusty trombone.
- PISCES (February 19 to March 20)**
You will have an unsuspecting foray into the drug world when you think you’re paying to see James Blunt.
- ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**
With the science fair fast approaching, don’t let things like “aberration,” “chimera” and “illegal” keep you from your goals.
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**
Beware of Jeffrey Dahmer enthusiasts and their promises of free candy.

- GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)**
High school is going to heat up when you’re diagnosed with early onset juvenile menopause.
- CANCER (June 22 to July 22)**
The stars tell me that it was you who pooped in the hall. You should be ashamed of yourself.
- LEO (July 23 to August 22)**
Discovering your sexuality will take a bad turn on a trip to Sea World.
- VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)**
You will discover thrilling new experiences when you combine your love of competitive math with bondage.

Spotlight

Zachary Page



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM

By **NEELABHI BHARTI, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

About two years ago, I didn’t know who Zachary Page was. We met one day when I was walking in the hall and he complimented my Nirvana shirt. I essentially blew him off and continued my walk, until he shoved me into a wall, placing the barrel of his .9 caliber handgun between my eyes and telling me to never ignore him again. Two years later, we are the best of friends.

Around the time of this confrontation, some of my friends already knew Zach to some extent, having classes with him and such; nothing beyond the extent of a few conversations. But one day, he was invited to hang out with us after school. Afterward, I had to take the train to go to work and he had to take the train to his abode in East Boston. I thought this half-hour train ride with a relative stranger would be incredibly awkward, but Zach proceeded to prove me wrong, displaying an effortless conversational grace that he maintains to this day. Thus began our friendship.

Zach’s talents, however, extend far beyond conversation. He has an incredible affinity for the arts, both visual and musical. Zach makes music on his own, writing acoustic songs that he accompanies with his voice. His compositions are memorable, never lacking in polish or originality. In fact, nobody is a bigger critic of his music than he himself. The scrutiny and thoroughness with which he treats his music is exemplary. Zach is constantly working to improve and doesn’t stop until he’s satisfied. As if that weren’t enough, he can also play bass, avidly goes to shows and has an incredible CD collection (that’s right, he actually buys them) and a towering stack of magazines that date back years.

Zach is also a very active member of the Boston Latin School art department. Having taken both the Foundations of Visual Art course last year as well as the AP Art class this year, he has been honing his skills—and it shows. His art, like his music, displays originality and meticulousness. It isn’t unusual for him to be awake until four or five in the morning, just working on pieces that are vibrant, trippy and at times metaphorical, all without the aid of drugs!

Beyond all of these things, Zach is an incredible friend. He is reliable and always there for whatever you need. He’s very loyal and never lets anyone down. His sense of humor is fantastic, he is always humble and also undeniably honest. For these reasons and more, few people deserve a spotlight more than Zach Page.

A & E BACK BAY

Café Jaffa

By **WENDY PAKOSTANDINI, II**
& **SILVANA VIVAS, II**
STAFF WRITERS

Café Jaffa is a restaurant that is perfect for all occasions. Its convenient

location on Gloucester Street makes it easy to get to during the weekend or after school. Whether for a planned outing or just a stop for lunch or dinner after shopping, it is casual yet formal. You seat yourself, but there is full waiter service once you're settled.



EAT MIDDLE EASTERN IN THE MIDDLE OF BOSTON

Café Jaffa is, overall, a comfortable and inviting restaurant. An award for best Middle Eastern Restaurant in 1999 is proudly displayed on the glass window next to the "Israeli Newspapers Sold Here!" sign. As one enters, the brick walls create a casual, laid back ambience. The small tables, crowded seating, dimmed lights and Middle Eastern paintings on the walls create more of a coffehouse feel than one of an actual restaurant.

The menu is very diverse and assorted. It offers something for everyone (even for the pickiest of eaters). Since it is a Middle Eastern restaurant, the majority of the foods contain lamb, beef and spices

and French fries. Vegetarian entrées are offered, as well as seafood and there is cake, coffee and baklava for dessert.

The dishes, utensils and tables were spotlessly clean, and the service was relatively good as well. The service was quick and the waiters were amiable. The one annoyance was that the waiter forgot to give us our drinks, but hey, that's what tipping (or lack thereof) is for.

It's true that the main Middle Eastern entrées, along with the seafood and vegetarian dishes, go for a pretty steep price, ranging from about \$10 to \$18. But all the sandwiches and salads are under \$10, with the price depending on the meat or content of the sandwich (that smoked eggplant might save you a couple bucks). So head over to Café Jaffa if you're up for a quality, fresh meal.

GPA: 3.7

SMART, BUT NOT WILLING TO GO THAT EXTRA STEP

Johnny Cupcakes

By **MICHELLE HOWARD, IV**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Nestled somewhere among the Burberrys and Nordstroms of Newbury Street is a store with a cupcake and crossbones for a logo and stainless steel cooling racks in the windows. For those who don't already know, Johnny Cupcakes is *not* a bakery. It is also not a department store. Johnny Cupcakes is something entirely different—which is exactly why people love it.

Founded on the motto "everyone wants what nobody has," Johnny Cupcakes began as a joke. The basic idea came from the nickname given to founder John Earle when he was working at Newbury Comics. As soon as Johnny showed up to work with a home-made cupcake T-shirt (a joke, of course), people wanted them. Where do the cupcake and crossbones come in? That's just Johnny making fun of pop culture by replacing random icons with cupcakes.

Johnny started selling his cupcake T-shirts out of the back of his van when he and his band went on tour. He says that the cupcake T's were selling even better than the band merchandise! When he found out about a fashion tradeshow in Las Vegas, his business really took off. More importantly, he also came up with his motto, which lends itself to the style of his clothing and store. Johnny noticed while he was there that he had the same sneakers as almost everyone else. Bummed out by feeling unoriginal, he decided that his T-shirts were going to be unique: his shirts were going to be "limited edition," which means that the new designs would replace the old ones for good. In fact, for some of his shirts he fixes the number that can be produced. He also decided that he needed to be selective about where

he sold these shirts. And thus, the motto was born.

Johnny first opened up a shop of his own in an old boat garage in Hull, Massachusetts. Back then, it was a boutique, warehouse and office. These days it's "more like our headquarters," because Johnny has moved up in the world: Newbury Street. The huge glass windows allow you to see straight into the store where his shirts are displayed behind a bakery display case and in large glass coolers. (Don't worry, your shirt won't be cold.) After you pick out what you want, you order it at



JUST A TASTE OF FASHION ON NEWBURY

the counter, just like a real bakery. While Newbury Street is his only retail location to date, Johnny hasn't closed out other options. He says he's been thinking about opening a shop in San Francisco or maybe even

Japan someday. Until then, consider yourself lucky to live in Boston, where you have the retail store at your disposal. For all of your out-of-town friends, they can always order their T-shirts from the website (www.johnnycupcakes.com), which is actually Johnny's main source of revenue.

But wait a minute: isn't Johnny Cupcakes the one who set out making fun of pop-culture? His cupcake-and-crossbones have become an icon. Has Johnny's success made him part of the very culture he sought to parody?

The short answer is "yes," but the irony of it all only makes it that much more appealing. Johnny is an original: an entrepreneur who took a chance with a business that started out as a joke. And millions of dollars in revenue later, he's a fashion statement.

Johnny Cupcakes is located at 279 Newbury Street.

Review: *Water for Elephants*

By **ROGER LU, V**
STAFF WRITER

The circus life isn't easy, and that's one lesson that Jacob Jankowski makes clear to the reader very quickly. Jacob, the protagonist of Sara Gruen's novel *Water for Elephants*, is an old man living in a senior center. He is either 90 or 93; he's not exactly sure. But that seems to be the only thing he is unsure of, as he is soon shown to be strong and clear-minded despite his advanced age.

The meaning behind the story is revealed after Jacob gets into a conflict with Joe, another senior citizen, who claims to have carried water for the elephants in a circus. Jacob objects, stating that the amount of water that elephants drink would make it impossible to carry. Very predictably, the second chapter begins with Jacob thinking about his past, when he was twenty-three and attending Cornell College at the onset of the Great Depression. After a disastrous turn of events leaves him homeless, an orphan and broke, young Jacob runs away right after his final exams and jumps on a train, expecting to become a hobo. He finds out

that he has jumped on the train for the Benzini Brothers' Most Spectacular Show on Earth

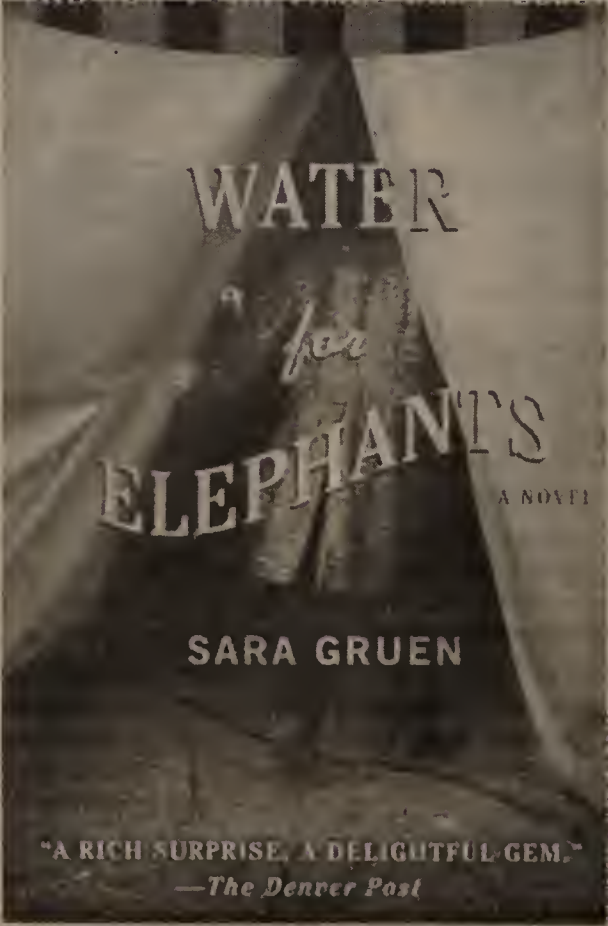
While circuses today are fun and family-friendly places to go to, the circus in Jacob's world is inhabited by a messy menagerie of lions, panthers and Arabian horses, all in a condition that would make the PETA shudder. The Benzini Brothers' Circus also boasts a "freak show," in which dwarves and other discriminated groups

are put on display for people to gawk at. Jacob even shares a bunk with one of the performers, nicknamed "Kinko." Kinko starts off as being harsh and unkind toward Jacob, but eventually warms up and becomes one of Jacob's closest friends.

In this supposed "most spectacular circus on earth," there is a hierarchy of sorts, and at the top is Uncle Al, the ring-leader, loathed by most of the circus performers. Second in command is the equestrian di-

rector, August. August is the central antagonist and also one of the best developed characters in the story, and, like his namesake, displays almost imperial power over the circus workers, despite his secondary place in the chain of command. August is initially cordial to Jacob, but after Jacob falls in love with August's wife Marlena, their relationship deteriorates.

Overall, the book is fast-paced, but the beginning reads like filler. The story only truly begins when the circus obtains an elephant, Rosie, and the focus shifts to her. While the mistreatment of animals is an important issue, the fact that Gruen is sacrificing the development of other characters, such as Uncle Al, is less understandable. On the other hand, she does create a vivid, accurate and exquisitely detailed image of the time period with exquisite detail. Although the Benzini Brothers' Most Spectacular Show on Earth is fictional, the book refers to the real-life Ringling Bros. Circus as their rival. The circuses of the Depression were gritty, grueling places and the author plays it out to its fullest with rich imagery and character development.

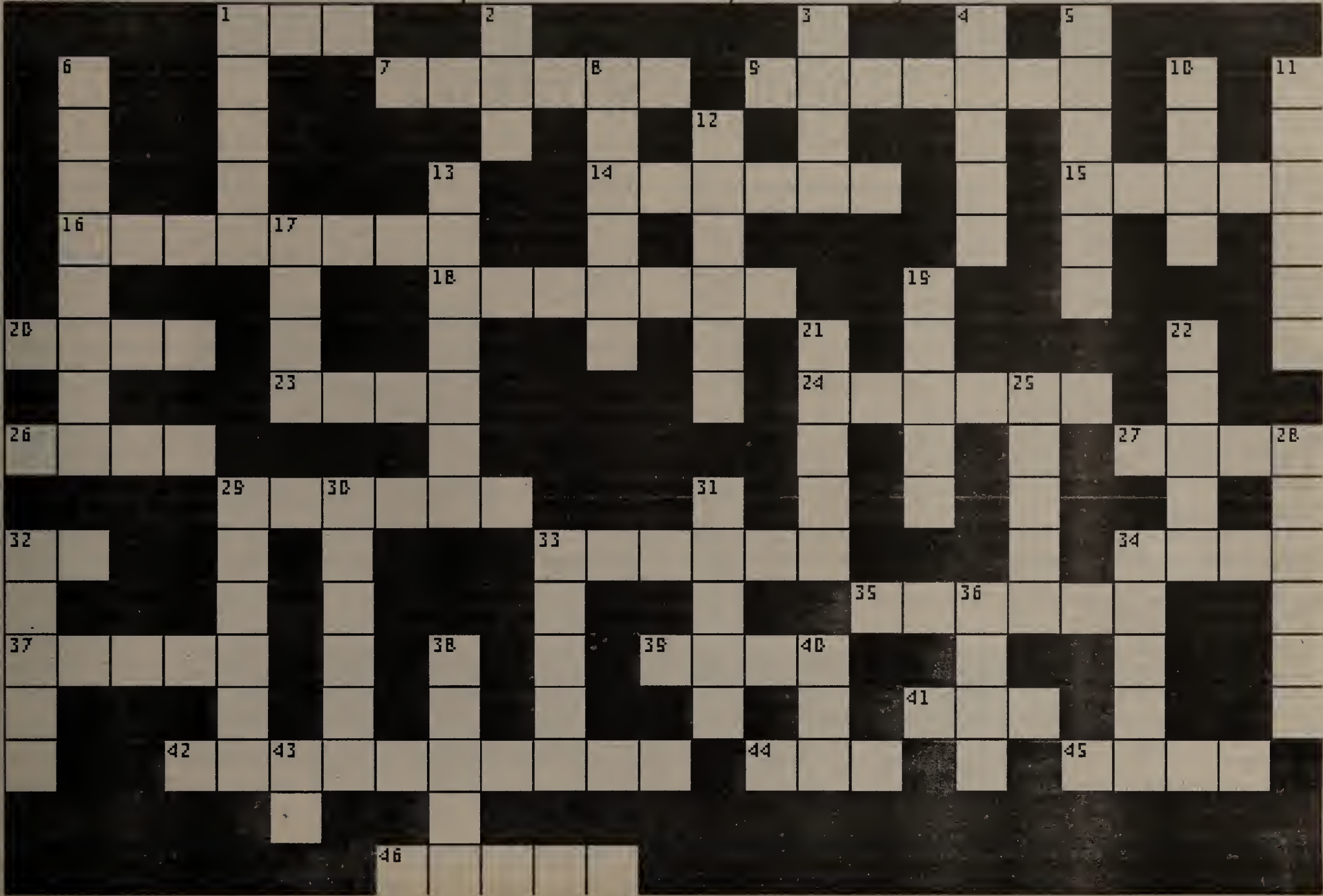


"A RICH SURPRISE, A DELIGHTFUL GEM."
—The Denver Post

THE FUN PAGE

Official Argo Crossword

The previous one was just too easy...



- Across**
- 1. Number of sharps in Concert F# major
 - 7. This type of disk goes into your A drive
 - 9. First character to die in Deathly Hallows
 - 14. Campbell's Soup Can artist
 - 15. September zodiac sign
 - 16. "Let's hit up _____ and mack on some cupcakes" -- Lazy Sunday
 - 18. The N in DNA
 - 20. Sixties, beware! This is NOT located on the 5th floor
 - 23. Garfield dog
 - 24. Mirror of _____
 - 26. Lost Disney clownfish
 - 27. Nate of Gossip Girls was going to give

- Down**
- 1. Number of Horcruxes
 - 2. Antes de tres, despues de uno
 - 3. Horribly named child of Ron and Hermione Weasley
 - 4. Sexiest man alive
 - 5. Color of deadly spotted lizard in Holes
 - 6. Brass instrument
 - 8. Predecessor to Condoleezza Rice
 - 10. Food in Italiano
 - 11. BLS club concerning Chinese arts and this
 - 12. This and Red Vine = Crazy Delicious
 - 13. 1994 South African president
 - 17. Milk's favorite cookie
 - 19. This 90's pop group of girls is coming to boston
 - 21. Chronicles of Narnia author
 - 22. Leader of the Mega-Trons: Optimus _____
 - 25. Weasleys' vacation spot (Book 3)
 - 28. Beckham now plays for this LA team
 - 29. First name of Newbury St. "bakery"
 - 30. The correct "hole-y" twin (deepest apologies!)
 - 31. Apologetic board game
 - 32. First Horcrux found by Harry Potter
 - 33. Expensive Swiss chocolate
 - 34. This wizard's signature spell is Sec-tumsempra
 - 36. Southeast Asian country
 - 38. 1, 2, 3, _____!
 - 40. First legendary Chinese dynasty
 - 43. "I'm a Mac.", "I'm a _____"

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BUSINESS

Introduction to Real Life Job Reviews

As more and more students are looking for job opportunities, we have decided to devote an article every

issue in this section on student jobs. In these articles, students who have worked will describe their experi-

ences with their employers. We hope that these articles will shed greater insight on the job market and help

students decide where to work in the future.

Sinecure Summer

BY JAMAL AHMED, I
STAFF WRITER

State Street Corporation is a worldwide investment management firm whose headquarters are in downtown Boston. Every summer, students who are interested in being an intern here are required to meet with Ms. Roselys Esteve individually in the PIC Office. From these interviews, the list of eligible students is narrowed down to only 40. Those who are chosen are required to attend a mandatory orientation toward the end of June when they receive their job specifications and the location of

their office. Seniors usually end up working in the State Street Financial Center building in the downtown headquarters, while juniors and first-time employees occupy offices near the North Quincy and Quincy Adams train stops on the Red Line. For many Boston Latin School students the commute to and from work is very long and not something to look forward to, especially in the warm summer weather.

One of the most important things for an intern at State Street is to make a good impression on his or her manager. In order to do this, it is very important to be punctual and polite and take only 45-min-

ute lunches, even though it can sometimes be tempting to relax with schoolmates for hours in the cafeteria. Also, it is equally as important to meet the deadlines that are given by the managers. Every date is important, because in the grand scheme of things, one missed deadline can delay the completion and launching of an expensive product. One of the workers in my building, Fang Yuan (I), made an excellent impression on his manager through his diligence and obedience, and therefore was respected and trusted by him.

Working at State Street can sometimes be difficult, but overall, it provides

students a glimpse of the business world and also prepares them for work in an office-related profession. Most students work in cubicles or large offices alongside their co-workers to complete tasks. This is vital to the success of a business because there are many branches in a corporation that must work together in order to make a product successful. For instance, when I worked at State Street last summer, my group developed a program that would allow companies to track their investments

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WIRELESS

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President Bush's and former President Clinton's administrations. A cyber guru while in the White House, he left in 2003 and became chairman of Good Harbor Consulting, a firm offering security expertise to foreign countries and corporations. He currently teaches at Harvard University and is the author of several books.

Last spring, when asked during an interview in the Alumni bulletin about how she would like to improve the school, Ms. Catherine Meany claimed she wanted to wire the entire school building and provide laptops for the faculty and students.

After reading this bulletin, Clarke emailed Ms. Meany and offered his assistance. In his opinion, "We have to compete with schools in China, Korea and elsewhere, places where the very best students are learning with the very best technology. It's all about global competition." Therefore, he proposed to help install a wireless network at Boston Latin School and to raise money through alumni fundraising. His company had previously worked with another company called Trapeze Networks, a wireless network installer, with whom he got the school in contact. Ms. Meany met with Trapeze Networks during the summer and they made numerous charts, maps and diagrams and took pictures of every classroom. "What we had to figure out," said Ms. Meany, "was

with our building, how do you cover the thickness of walls so we can get coverage for the whole building, for every floor." In order to determine where to place the WAPs, they had to monitor interference, coverage and strength of signal throughout the entire school ground. After some rig-

ment will have finished installing the last WAP. Although initially funding for this project was supposed to be made possible through alumni fundraising, Clarke footed the entire \$60,000 tab after a generous discount given by the Trapeze Company. Ordinarily, installing Wi-Fi in a school

campuses are wireless, but Boston Latin School is one of the first Boston Public Schools to have wireless access. With this new benefit, however, will come new responsibilities. Meetings have been scheduled with the school department to establish the rules of connecting and how to connect. When the school wireless network is fully established, students will be able to connect to it through their ID and password or through a guest account. All laptops used must have up-to-date virus protection software and there will be a student tech team to check computers and fix any bugs.

Coincidentally, the Boston Foundation has announced a grant to give all public school teachers a laptop. Currently, six companies—Apple, HiQ, Hewlett-Packard, Cdw-G and Gov-Connection—have applied to provide laptops and computer software. These laptops will be dispatched in the next few months to the teachers after they go to a two to three hour orientation session. Plans are also being made to upgrade all the computers of the Boston Public Schools.

Unmistakably, this is a milestone and "an opportunity that is going to take our school to the next level of technology implementation," says Ms. Meany. "It is an incredible opportunity for all the students and faculty here." In fact, having Wi-Fi in school is already promising many new advantages. The only unanswered question remaining is if students will get laptops too. Ms. Meany has already proposed laptop nights, during which vendors will provide information and discounts on laptops for parents. So the next time you're in class checking your e-mail or doing research on your laptop, don't forget to thank Mr. Clarke.



BLS STUDENT UNPLUGGED

orous work, they were able to choose the locations of the seventy WAPs and install them. These access points are currently in the school and are in the process of being activated. By the end of this month, electricians sent by the school depart-

this size would probably cost \$120,000 to \$150,000. Ms. Meany is planning a thank you event for Richard A. Clarke for his enormous contributions. Student input is highly appreciated.

Numerous prep school and college

Gambling with the State's Future

BY WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're from Massachusetts, you probably have at least heard of the new plan to build casinos around the state.

This sounds like a promising plan on the surface. The state will get a lot of money to spend on education (then teachers won't be able to complain about not having paper instead of teaching), on the police or on any of the other things that are important to spend money on. One beneficiary of the planned casinos are the Native American tribes of Massachusetts, who under Patrick's plan will have the opportunity to be the first bidders on operating the casinos. Furthermore, additional revenue is necessary

for our governor, Deval Patrick, who has many plans to reduce local taxes and help the biotech industry.

Opening casinos, however, has as many risks as gambling itself. Gambling can become a serious addiction, quite similar to drug or alcohol abuse. It preys overwhelmingly on the poor, as they see themselves as having the most to gain out of getting lucky at a casino. Casino owners have had decades, if not centuries, of experience on how to squeeze the most money out of the unfortunate and ignorant that come to gamble; in fact, free drinks are often provided to gamblers to impair their sense of judgment, causing them to spend more money than they may if they were sober. The art of making money from gamblers has been refined

over time, making it extremely profitable for casino owners and those who collect taxes from them. Although many choose not to believe it, the odds of winning are so slim that gamblers almost always end up losing money. And while from a business standpoint this huge influx of money sounds fantastic, the looming threat of gambling addictions remains. The impact on local neighborhoods is potentially severe, as their residents may be forced to deal with aggravated social problems of addiction, depression and poverty.

Governor Patrick says he already plans to allocate some of the proceeds from gambling to solve the social problems it creates. But how can we really know how extensive those problems may

be? More importantly, is it even ethical to establish a business that you are already preparing to have harmful effects on society; can we really put a price on the well-being of Massachusetts residents?

This brings up something that hasn't been addressed yet in this section [Editor's note: It's only the second issue with it.] That something is business ethics. It's an important lesson for all of us to learn that sometimes pure economic gain isn't the most important determining factor in a decision. Before such decisions are made, we can't forget to examine closely all the effects that they will have, good or bad. In regard to the casinos, with so much at risk, is it really worth it to gamble on our future? We'll know soon enough.

BUSINEESS

Introduction to Interviews

We are excited to include an interview in this section every issue with an alumnus who has become in-

involved in the business or technology fields. We hope that through these interviews, these alumni will be able

to teach us how to accomplish goals, give us insights into their professions, expand our knowledge on job pos-

sibilities and give us advice on how to enter their respective fields. This issue: Bruno Fagundes, '06

What's Going On With You Now, Bruno

By JAMES FITZPATRICK, I
BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Can you describe your current job?

I started a home based business through the help of MonaVie. MonaVie is a nutritional beverage blended with the açai berry. The blend is packed with anti-oxidants and helps people look younger, feel better and it also provides the recommended serving of fruits for a day. The company works on a Multi-Level Marketing format in which independent distributors buy the product from the company at wholesale prices and resell it at retail value. Distributors are encouraged to recruit people to join the company and MonaVie rewards them with a generous compensation plan. I personally don't like the idea of selling juice, so most of what I do in the company is recruiting people and earning commission in return.

How did you get involved with Monavie?

I was presented with the business opportunity by a family friend; he gave me a brochure, some links to websites and told me to get back to him. In my

research I found that MonaVie has no real competitors and appeals to a crowd with extra money to spend. A good product, correct timing and the right target market are the three basic facets that any multi-level marketing company, if you plan on

to join.

Has graduating from Boston Latin School benefited you in getting your job with MonaVie?

Being a BLS graduate gives me a diploma which is worth its weight in gold. Monavie distributors are, for the most

part, middle aged men and just astounded to see a young person trying to get involved with a company. A BLS diploma not only helped me obtain the position, but also assisted me in my job. Whenever I bring up the fact that I am a Boston Latin Alumnus, people, whether at the company or potential buyers, get a sense of security. In fact, just revealing this has influenced people's decision to join; I've really started to love telling people that I went to BLS, because now I get a hundred

bucks out of it.

Is there any one skill that you've acquired from BLS that you apply to your current job?

Boston Latin School gave me the opportunity to develop my social interaction skills through declamation, presentations and roaming the halls, which is ideal for the success of any business person.

Another useful skill I gained was to never be overwhelmed with the amount of work dropped in front of me.

What are your plans for the future in business?

My plan for the future is to just continue with school eventually earning my MBA and throwing my resume out there for companies to compete over. I recently read in the *Wall Street Journal* that in the coming years, an MBA will be worth a lot and companies are already thinking of new ways to attract recent graduates. It's a good thing for all students who are considering a business major in college. A friend and I are currently discussing a possible partnership and coming up with a plan to start a business while still I'm still in college. I honestly didn't think I would be involved with baby boomers and juice when I was fresh out of high school, but it's working out great.

What advice can you give?

Simply keep your options open. In business, it's the best thing you can do. Another recommendation is to be friendly; you never know who can be your ticket in to any opportunity. The other thing is "to fake it until you make it." People will judge you regardless, so make them believe you are the best person for that job and for everything else really. (They actually teach you that at college.) And tell your parents about MonaVie and to come talk to me. My email address is fagundes.bruno@yahoo.com. Thanks for reading. Hi, Mr. Keitt!



LOOK AT THAT SUCCESSFUL FACE



THIS IS WHAT HE SELLS

joining, should have. I also noticed that in its first two and a half, years MonaVie had reported one billion dollars in revenue and was growing at a record setting pace. However, the startup cost is surprisingly low, (you can get started with less than 200 dollars) making the offer even more inviting. Right there and then I decided

Pedal to the....Brake?

By DRICKERSON SAINT LOUIS, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As many of you are approaching or have already reached the age of 16, you're arriving at the first milestone in your life because you have finally reached the legal driving age in Massachusetts. You're probably looking forward to that day when you finally get your own car and are liberated from going everywhere under the constraint of your parents.

But before you think about purchasing that car and putting the "pedal to the metal," beware. Even though having a car might sound appealing, it isn't as easy as it seems. First of all, the biggest burden is the high cost of car insurance. Not only is it required by law, but it can be pretty expensive, especially for teen drivers; it can cost upwards of \$2,500 depending on the type of car. Gas is another huge hindrance when it comes to owning a car. With gas prices threatening to exceed \$3.10 per gallon, you might be shelling out over \$50 just on gas every week! Thirdly, Murphy's Law applies to car ownership. Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong—so you must have spare change lying around just in case. Whether it is getting a parking ticket, getting towed, having a flat tire or having mechanical difficulties, they all cost money.

All that having been said, my advice to all of you who are thinking of owning a car is to ask yourself "Do I need this car in order to go about my daily business, or is it just a luxury to make things easier for me?" For me it was a little bit of both at first, but because of the stress of senior year, owning a car started becoming a necessity to complete all of my daily activities. Another pressing issue is the problem of driving to school. As mentioned previously, gas isn't cheap and driving in the city gives you the most horrible gas mileage possible. In addition to this problem, you'll also have to worry about traffic, pedestrians and fatigue. Getting up at 5:30 a.m. with little sleep and driving that early in the morning is neither an easy nor a safe thing to do.

Should you decide that a car is still a necessity for you and that you accept all responsibilities and risks involved, let's

discuss what type of car you should buy. The first two thoughts that pop into a teenager's mind when talking about cars are speed and style. When purchasing a



I HOPE WORKING FIFTY HOURS A WEEK FOR THIS IS WORTH IT

car, safety should always be the number one concern. God forbid that you should ever get into an accident, but we live in Boston, a city notorious for its crazy drivers, so you can never be too cautious. The next issue to consider when buying a car is size. Living in the city, you already have a hard time

finding open parking spots, but even if you do find one, most of the time you won't be able to fit into the spot. And an added bonus to having a small car is that they're

more fuel friendly. Finally, you must consider the climate. From the occasional Nor'easter to the white-out snow storms, New England has it all, and with Boston constantly under construction, the roads can get pretty bumpy. After taking all of this into consideration I would recommend that you buy a small SUV (Honda CRV, Toyota RAV 4) with four wheel drive.

Student car ownership is probably one of the biggest responsibilities teenagers face today. But if you think you're up for the challenge, make sure that you have extra money lying around and that you accept all responsibilities and risks involved. Who knows? I might be stuck behind you in a traffic jam someday soon.

STATE STREET

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online. We were responsible for creating the computer codes and applications to run the program, while another group was designated to test

our codes and applications to make sure that they worked properly. We had to communicate often in order to fix any problems they found and then resubmit our work to be tested again. Finally, when all of the applications were completed and tested, the

advertisement and distribution teams took over and made the product more appealing and understandable. One of the things they did was make a list of procedures that explained how to use the program and the website that accompanied it.

If you are interested in joining the business field, the State Street summer internship is definitely something that you should look into. It is valuable work experience that can prepare you for a future job in a business, pays well and looks good on your résumé.

Spotlight Anna Smith



ANNA SMITH (II)

BY ALEX PRYSE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I have known Anna for three years, yet it feels like we have been good friends our entire lives. I met her through mutual friends and soccer, and as we began to hang out more, I came to find that she is an incredibly gifted, athletic and genuine person, and above all else, an amazing friend.

Anna has always possessed an immense love of sports, especially soccer. She is absolutely obsessed. Whenever anyone calls her to hang out on the weekends or after school, 95 percent of the time, her response is: "I can't. I have soccer." Anna began to play competitive soccer at the very young age of six, when she joined a club called ST2K. During her years at ST2K, Anna developed both her incredible skill on the field and the concentrated, involved mindset that every great soccer player requires. After nine years with ST2K, Anna joined a new club called Boston Blast, and the next year (tenth grade) she played for Dynamis United. While playing for these two clubs, Anna became the amazing soccer player she is today. Last year, all of her hard work paid off: she tried out for and made it onto a Division I soccer team called South Shore Select, arguably one of the top teams in the state for her age group.

Not only does Anna play soccer outside of school, but she also plays for Boston Latin. Anna made the varsity squad in eighth grade, yet did not play that year because she was playing for ST2K during the fall season. Since her entrance onto the varsity team in the ninth grade (a great feat in and of itself), Anna has been one of the team's most crucial players. Having been a starting player since the ninth grade, Anna has proven herself to be one of the Dual County League's best competitors. In ninth grade she received an Honorable Mention from the DCL, and for her sophomore and junior year seasons, she was awarded as a Dual County League 1st Team All-Star (which ranked her in the top 20 players in the league).

Surprisingly, Anna does have a life outside of soccer. She also plays flute and is an extremely gifted musician. On top of this, Anna is able to maintain exceptional grades and an extremely rigorous schedule. During the summer, she spends her time at a summer camp, Chimney Corners, where she is a counselor. At this camp, Anna uses her remarkable skills to teach younger girls how to play soccer.

When you ask most people what they think of Anna, they'll probably say that she's either a sick soccer player or a ditzy blonde (both of which are true). But she is much, much more than that. Anna is an athlete, a musician, a role model and an extremely smart, fun-loving person. I am so proud of her accomplishments thus far, and I expect her to go on to do great things. In the famous words of DIT: "Listen to your heart," Anna, and you will go far.

SPORTS Girls' Hockey Set to Dominate

BY LAUREN ANDERSON, II
STAFF WRITER

Boston Latin, how excited are you for the 2007-2008 Varsity Girls' Hockey season? If you are not excited already, then you will be soon. This year the girls, led by Coach Marty McDonough and senior captains Jayme Deflurin, Anne-Marie Elvin, Katherine Pavone, Kathleen Roche and Tiana Tassinari will more than likely take the girls to a championship.

A lot is riding on this season for the girls. Last year, with an overall record of 18-1-3, they were the only team in the entire state of Massachusetts to go without a single loss in the regular season, which is an accomplishment in and of itself. In defeating Concord Carlisle, the girls gained the title of DCL Champions, but they were not able to keep their streak going. In the championship game against Arlington Catholic, the girls played a tough game into double over time, but their stride lessened and they lost the game with only fourteen seconds remaining.

It is now a new season, however, and with a new season comes new players, new games and new goals. New goals, which according to Lauren Doran (II) are centered around "improving our team,

despite the tough loss of Captain Colleen Doogan." In trying to make up for this huge loss, the team is already hard at practice, with the hopes of "making it further than last year, and winning the states," says Doran.

This team seems to have what it takes to not be dismissed as another typical BLS sports team. It is well-known that throughout the league and even throughout the school, our athletes do not get the respect that they deserve. The way that these girls talk about the team, with such pride, honor and admiration, exemplifies the feeling among them that they are as close as ever to winning states. Brena Walsh (II) says, "This season, just as in previous seasons, I hope to see the team work together and achieve that State Championship. We have a strong and skillful team and although we have come so close in the past few years, this year can—and will—be different." In listening to the girls on the team, it is hard to believe that any other team stands a chance against the Wolfpack. Walsh is predicting an incredible season, and with such leadership and determination throughout, it is hard not to get caught up in believing it as well.

Though this team has its share of stars, including the U.S.A. Olympic Team's own Anne-Marie Elvin, at the

games, there is not one player that you will be unable to keep your eyes off of. They are a team, and they play like one. "They way our team has bonded together helps every single player develop," says Doran. With such strong leadership and chemistry, everyone gets a chance to shine and the opportunity to improve their game. Although, as Doran says, "If I had to pick, I would say watch our goalie, Siobhan Elvin (III). She's already an amazing All-Star Goalie, but it is always fun to watch her display her talents." It's that praise and the respect for each other that has helped to get the girls so far.

This team is composed of all the right elements needed to win a championship: determination, love for the sport and for the team and a desire to bring more athletic championships to BLS. These things, added to the support from the Boston Latin School community, may be what is needed for this to be the year. The girl's hockey team hopes to bring the title to BLS this year and with their talent, we are very likely to see this happen.

With the Red Sox being champions, the Patriots halfway to a perfect season, and the Celtics playing like many of us have never seen before, hockey is in need of a return to Boston, and it probably won't be from the Boston Bruins.

Powerderpuff: Patriots Not the

BY AMY WALSH, I
STAFF WRITER

With eye black streaked across their faces and ribbons in their hair, the junior and senior girls of Boston Latin showed up to school for the annual Powderpuff football game on November 13. Last Tuesday, Clemente Field looked better than ever. Because of the rain the day before, our makeshift football field had become a muddy mess, but the game went on as planned. The rules are as follows: only 11 players from each team can be on the field at a time, a person cannot run with only one flag and, most importantly, no tackling. For those unfamiliar with the concept, the object of the game is to rip at least one flag off the person with the ball on the opposite team in order to stop the play.

The team captains were Naomi Harmon and Samantha Demezieux for the seniors and Kay Smith and Hanna

Stuart-Shor for the juniors. These captains did their best to level the playing field, giving every girl an equal opportunity to participate; that way the same players would not going out for every series. Once the starting offense and defense players were decided, the game got under way.

Natalie Counts (I) started the game off with an amazing touchdown, making the score 1-0 in favor of the seniors. The juniors, however, gave the seniors a run for their money. Kay Smith (II) spared no time in running a strategic play to give her team a touchdown. Before halftime rolled around, it became apparent that this was no longer a friendly game. Each team was in it to win, no matter what. Many girls ended up facedown in the mud due to some "overly excited" players. Jenny Stone (I) seemed to take a particularly hard fall when Smith "accidentally" bumped into her. As the game got more intense, many girls adopted more dirty tactics, playing with their elbows up. Caitlin Losi (I) was

a particularly impressive blocker for the senior offense, protecting quarterback Kathleen Roche (I). But we must not forget one of the seniors' most valuable players: Erica Moise, commonly known as E-Rock. Moise made some impressive defensive plays along with Adele Jean, whom she claims to be the person "she couldn't have done it without." But we mustn't forget to give the juniors credit. Their key players, including quarterback Smith and Bianca Rose, proved themselves by scoring the last junior touchdown. Brena Walsh (II) also proved to be a tough blocker while she and Losi had quite a few interesting interactions.

Although the juniors put up a good fight, they were no match for the superior strength of the senior team. And contrary to previous games, such as last year's, it was not rigged in favor of the seniors. This year, the seniors won fair and square. Juniors always have next year, but we seniors are *undefeated*. Holla back '08!

Historic Year for Boys' Soccer

BY ALYSSA GRANARA, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The boy's varsity soccer team just finished up their 2007 season. The team concluded the season with five wins, ten losses and three ties, which is a few wins shy of qualifying for the state tournament—in fact, this record is the best in the history of Boston Latin boys' soccer in the Dual County League. This was a major achievement for the team, especially given the tough competition it faced in the DCL.

The team was led by coach Nate Houghton and captains Stephen O'Connell (I), Rafael Santos (I) and Matt Monarch (I). Santos led the league in scoring with seventeen goals this season and also earned himself the title of Dual County League MVP. Goalie Mike Marra's (II) saves also contributed to the team's success and helped it pull off a victory in some close games. "Mike Marra was the league's best goalie and most underrated

player on the field. He kept us alive in every game," said Eric Bullard (II), when asked about the team. Several members of the team were returning All Stars from last year's season as well.

Just weeks after the closing of the 2007 season, the team is focusing on next year. The coach is already looking into who should lead the team as captains and the improvements that

they need to make so that they can bring the team to the state tournament. Hopefully, the success that the team had this year and the practice that they put in will motivate next year's team to have an even better season in 2008. They feel that even though they will be losing several of their strong players, they have enough JV players who will be moving up to varsity to fill in the missing spots and maintain

the team's momentum.

The team deserves a lot of credit for improving in a league that is difficult to compete in. Some of their opponents ranked in the state's top twenty for boys' high school soccer, like Concord Carlisle, which was ranked number one and Acton-Boxboro, number eight. Despite such formidable opponents, they managed to keep their record close to other teams in the league, with only one more loss than Newton South. The hard work that they put in during the off-season, their daily practices and their talent all paid off as the boys successfully wrapped up an 18-game schedule. This historic season will serve as motivation as the team vies to improve to a playoff-caliber team.



RAFAEL SANTOS BATTLES FOR THE BALL

SPORTS

Team Aims at Future Goals

By DELIA KLIM, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The season may be over, but the Boston Latin girls' soccer team has made a lasting impression on Latin sports through its hard work and spirit. With a team stacked with seniors including captains Anna Smith, Allyson Gittens and Rose Frank, the Wolfpack came into the season with confidence, ready to compete with all of the successful teams in the DCL. The girls entered each day prepared for a challenge, but also ready to prove their strength as a team. Their record of 2-14-4, however, does not reflect the way the girls played throughout the season. Many games were close in score and they gave it their all, both on and off the field.

The competition was tough this year and though the BLS girls were ready for anything, so was everyone else. The teams would frequently be tied throughout the entire game only to lose in the last few minutes. While the girls went up against the usual tough DCL teams like Acton-Boxboro and Weston, they also faced the less-competitive Tyngsboro, a newcomer to the Dual-County League. Tyngsboro shocked the Wolfpack with a tie and a defeat. Despite unsatisfactory

final scores, the girls played their best every game, and even when they were not winning, they tried their hardest every second.

Throughout the season, the girls' soccer team has always done their best to display school spirit and team unity. Allyson Gittens (I) commented: "That's



THE GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM POSES

one thing that sets BLS soccer apart from other sports at our school: the fact that even though we may not always come in first, we always play our hardest and let people know that it's our house!" Many other of Gittens's teammates expressed these same thoughts. Soccer is an obvious passion for all of the girls and their team pride and unity is present in the halls and on the field.

Next year, the team will lose 13 seniors, most of whom have been playing on the team since they were sixes. Dominique Hall (I) lamented the end of her BLS soccer career but also relished her experience, saying, "We have been playing together for so long and the senior class has made up a big part of the soccer program. It's sad for this part of our lives to come to an end, but we know that the younger girls will keep our tradition of enjoying ourselves alive." The team may be losing a lot of seniors, but there will be rising stars like Kay Smith (II), Hanna Stuart-Shor (II) and Christiana Hynds (IV) to carry on the team's spirit.

Many goals were reached this year and accomplishments were rewarded. One of these accomplishments was the recognition of team members Allyson Gittens (I), Anna Smith (I), Christiana Hynds (IV) and Christine Kelly (I), with DCL All-Star honorable mentions.

These girls worked hard all season on the team and definitely deserved this recognition. The Boston Latin girls' soccer team will look back on this season and remember their team, their unity and their accomplishments with fondness and pride.

Spotlight Rafael Santos



CHEN-UN JUAN (II)

By DOMINIQUE HALL, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Since his arrival at Latin School, the words soccer and Rafael have become synonymous with one another. Rafael Santos has been passionate about soccer for as long as he can remember. He started playing soccer in his native Brazil around the age of two, and he has been playing ever since. Rafael brought his super soccer skills to America when he moved to East Boston and joined a youth league. His innate talent was obvious to the coach when he tried out for Latin's team in the seventh grade.

"My favorite soccer player is Ronaldinho," says Rafael. "He has really inspired me because he does what I want to do better than I could ever hope to do. He makes every game exciting."

In addition to the school team, Rafael has played on many club teams. He is currently on a semi-professional team, the Aztecs. Two years ago, he suffered a devastating blow when he broke a bone in his foot during a game. He was forced to support his teammates from the sidelines, missing the school and club season. Although this injury was obviously devastating, he was determined to come back the next season better than ever. When Rafael could finally return to the sport he loves so much, he was so excited that getting back into shape proved to be an easy task for him.

Off the field, Rafael likes to spend time with his friends in East Boston. His competitive attitude has helped him become a successful poker player and FIFA video game champion as well. In school, his favorite subjects are Math and Economics. He always has a hilarious joke and a positive attitude when you see him in the hallway.

After seven (yes, seven) years on the soccer team, Rafael's final year was the most memorable. As captain, he led the team to its most successful season, scoring a staggering 17 goals. At the end of the season, it was no surprise when he was deservedly named Dual County League Most Valuable Player. Rafael is the first player on the Boston Latin School team to have received this award. "Rafael is really modest about everything, but when you see him play, you realize how amazing it is that such a talented kid could be at our school," says teammate and long-time friend Declan O'Grady (I).

Rafael has left a legacy in the Boston Latin School soccer program that athletes in the following years will look up to. Although he is very proud of his personal accomplishments, it is the team's success which made this season so special. In college, he would like to play Division I soccer, but he does not know how far he'd like to go afterward. After seven years as an amazing teammate, student and friend, we can all see that you can pass Rafael the ball, or any challenge, and he will surely score.

Only Undeclared Team in Town



LINA NGUYEN (I)



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LINA NGUYEN (I)

BLS Football Down But Not Out

By GRAHAM THOMPSON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What is there to be said about the Boston Latin School football team this year? Some might say that it was terrible, that it was a failure, that it was the worst season ever. Obviously, it was a disappointing season. Yet many people forget that a losing record doesn't define a team. What really matters is how they stick together and play the game. I'm not talking about some wishy-washy "winning isn't everything" message. Winning is great—it's an added bonus, a good side effect of playing a sport. But even when a team doesn't win, the players still can have fun being a part of it. Sure, the games can be depressing, and players might hate showing up and losing every week. Yet the feeling of belonging to a team is more important than that and, ultimately, is what the sport is about.

There's no denying their complete lack of wins. But that's not to say that the team didn't have its share of great games.

Losing a game 27-26 after leading 26-0 at halftime is rough. But it was a great game full of suspense and action. Another game was tied going into the half, but ultimately the Wolfpack couldn't hold it together and lost. These games, while disappointing, highlight the fact that, despite losing, the players still put a lot of effort into doing their best.

It's that spirit that keeps people on the team for an entire season. Nobody likes practices—they are a necessary evil. Nobody likes losing games, either. A few linemen said that practices for them this year were the most difficult of any season of football they had ever played. The field was hard, dusty and full of rocks. Rain turned it into a swamp, and heat into a desert. Combine that with three-hour practices filled with bruises and yelling and no wins to show for it, and you start to wonder why the players put up with it. The answer is that football, especially to a winless team, is more than just showing up for practice and playing the game. It's about

having that spirit, that feeling of being part of the team, and sharing that feeling with all the other guys suffering through the same grueling experience. In the end, that's what a team is about—although winning a few times *certainly* isn't bad.

Now we're looking forward to the Thanksgiving game. Obviously, the fear everyone who plays football has is that they will be remembered for years as "the team who lost to English." That fear is obviously a very powerful motivation. But even as we look forward to the Thanksgiving game with some trepidation, there still is a lot of school spirit. The rallies will be as intense as ever; the cheerleaders and band will still do their parts enthusiastically. It's almost like the pre-2004 Red Sox; everyone knows they lose a lot and shatter your dreams, but you love to cheer for them anyways. That's the feeling you get when you look forward to Thanksgiving—not a feeling of dread from an impending loss. Here's to a great win over English to finish off the season!

SPORTS

My Heisman Picks



OKLAHOMA FALLS VICTIM TO DIXON

BY MIKE RAMBO, I
STAFF WRITER

Week 11 of the college football season has just concluded, and the Heisman Trophy race is heating up.

My frontrunner is Oregon quarterback Dennis Dixon. The Ducks' quarterback has thrown for 2,074 yards and 20 touchdowns, given up only three interceptions and earned a passer rating of 163.1. The one-loss Ducks have beaten both USC and Arizona State under Dixon's leadership and are currently ranked second in the BCS standings. Dixon is a dynamic athlete, drafted by the Atlanta Braves as an outfielder and spending the 2007 football off-season in the Braves' minor league system. Because he poses a threat with not only his big arm, but also his speed, he is, without a doubt, a game changer. Although his skills allow him to be a dominant college player, he lacks the size of a Tim Tebow and may not be able to compete at the professional level.

Matt Ryan and Andre' Woodson are no longer in the race. Both quarterbacks possess the skill to excel in the NFL, but their teams have lost too many games for them to contend with Dixon. Woodson's Kentucky Wildcats aren't talented enough to beat everyone in the SEC. Ryan's game has fallen apart in the last two weeks; his BC Eagles have lost largely due to a lack of speed at the skill positions, which caused Ryan to force all of his throws and toss interceptions at crucial junctures of the game.

Tebow is more recognizable than Dixon, but that will soon change. Tebow's Gators are having a less-than-stellar season, but they have a chance to avenge their loss against LSU in the SEC championship game assuming both teams win their divisions of the SEC. The winner of an LSU-Florida SEC Championship game will likely be headed to the national championship. Tebow's numbers are better than Dixon's, but Tebow will only win the Heisman if the Gators defeat LSU (a win I don't think they will be able to pull off).

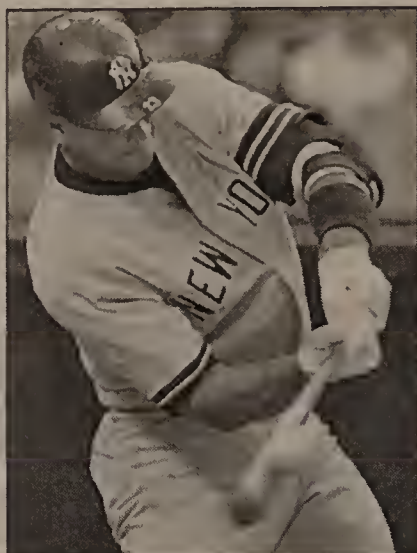
Darren "Run DMC" McFadden has played well this season for the Razorbacks, rushing for 1,431 yards and 12 touchdowns, but Arkansas has lost too many games for McFadden to be considered unless he breaks the 2,000-yard mark, which is quite unlikely with so few games remaining in the season.

But McFadden has fared better than his running back counterparts Mike Hart and Steve Slaton who have struggled to live up to their expectations this season. Hart has been slowed by injuries and Slaton has had a tough year largely because Pat White has been injured. He has also proved unable to carry the full load of the Mountaineers' rushing attack on his shoulders.

One candidate whose name has been mentioned in Heisman discussions is Glen Dorsey, the star defensive tackle at LSU. Dorsey may receive consideration because he is the best player on the best team in the country and a top notch NFL prospect, but in the end, he won't win because, frankly, he plays defense.

Who's a better fit for Boston?*

A-Rod



BY ALAN CIRCEO, I
STAFF WRITER

Many people in this city are not too fond of Mr. Rodriguez, especially not after his incident on July 24, 2004 in Fenway Park when Jason Varitek shoved him in the face, nor after the Hamburger Helper hand episode when he slapped the ball out of Bronson Arroyo's glove during Game 6 of the 2004 American League Championship Series. The fact that he's been a Yankee for the last four years also hasn't won him any fans here either. Plus, it looks like he wears lipstick. Who likes a man who wears lipstick? Despite these episodes, one fact remains clear: Alex Rodriguez is undeniably the best player in the league and potentially the best player to have ever played the game. He is certainly the best player in my lifetime, and that is a hard fact to argue with. Why wouldn't you want the best player in the game on your team? I know I would.

Before I'm burned at the stake for heresy against the Church of Mike Lowell, let me just say that I appreciate Mike Lowell's years in Boston fully and completely. He's been tremendous in a Red Sox uniform, leading them in RBIs this year and winning the World Series MVP award for his fantastic series against the Rockies. But in comparison, Rodriguez hit 56 home runs this season, tops in the MLB and drove in 156 RBIs, again tops in the MLB. He is a run-producing machine. He's been this way his whole career, hitting under 30 home runs only once and driving in less than 100 RBIs, again only once. The man has been the most consistent hitter in all of baseball over the last 12 years. If A-Rod comes to Boston next year, he is guaranteed to bring at least 35 home runs and 120 RBIs along with him. Think of this for just a moment: Pedroia, Youkilis, Ortiz, Ramirez and Rodriguez. That would easily be, if only for one year, the most prolific 3-4-5 combinations of all time, bar none. I'm sure you would love such a lineup on the Red Sox, and I'm equally as sure that the pitchers in the American League would dread facing the Red Sox all season.

"But how has he done in the playoffs?" This is the usual criticism against the Red Sox for thinking about signing Rodriguez. While his postseason has not been as spectacular as his unparalleled regular season output, his record is not as horrible as people claim. His career playoff batting average is .280, a perfectly respectable average, but certainly not spectacular. In fact, there are instances when A-Rod played quite well in the playoffs. With the Seattle Mariners in 1999, he hit .371 with three home runs. Also, most people conveniently forget that in the 2004 playoffs Rodriguez hit .320, a solid average against two of the best pitching staffs in the league that year, the Minnesota Twins and, of course, the Red Sox.

Remember 2003? When the Red Sox had the most prolific offense in the history of the Major League Baseball? That year they scored more runs than the 1927 Yankees, which boasted a first baseman by the name of Lou Gehrig and a pudgy right fielder who hit 60 home runs. Well, those days when the Red Sox had the most powerful lineup in the league are over. When Ramirez walks at the end of the 2008 season, the Red Sox could have one decent power hitter, David Ortiz, to rely on. The Red Sox will not be able to maintain their success year after year with a number four hitter batting only 20 home runs. Their pitching saved this from being exposed this year but it won't happen every year. They need more power in the lineup. Rodriguez guarantees 35 home runs, and probably more. And guess what? There are no power hitters in the Sox farm system. Signing A-Rod would give the Red Sox a fine fielder at the hot corner, an offensive machine and probably the best player of the last quarter of the century. His presence on the lineup along with the Red Sox pitching staff would allow the team to make the playoffs every year for the next five years. And as Billy Beane says, the general manager's job is to get the team to the playoffs. The rest is a crapshoot.

*Though A-Rod has been signed since we gave our writers this assignment, we still feel this topic warrants a serious discussion.

Lowell



BY JAMAL AHMED, I
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Red Sox are in the midst of a very busy off-season. They have already signed a one-year deal with starting pitcher Curt Schilling, but have still not agreed to a deal with perhaps their biggest free agent player, third baseman Mike Lowell. Lowell's main competition for the starting third base job is Alex Rodriguez, who opted out of his multimillion dollar contract with the Yankees before Game 4 of the World Series. Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, recently met with the Red Sox for an hour-long meeting, but no settlement was made between the two parties. The current debate among members of Red Sox nation is whether A-Rod or Lowell would be a better fit for America's favorite baseball team, but to me, the answer is obvious: Mike Lowell.

This past year, Mike Lowell was not only the World Series MVP, but also arguably the MVP of the regular season. He led the Sox offense in four major statistical categories: games played (154), at-bats (589), hits (191) and runs batted in (120). He got nine more hits and drove in three more runs than the second place David Ortiz, whom some consider to be the most feared hitter in the game. Also, Lowell was second on the team in batting with a .324 average, second in home runs with 21 and second in slugging percentage, .501. This was by far the most productive season of Lowell's 10-year career, and as far as many analysts are concerned, there is no reason to doubt that he will not keep it up. Lowell had a great season offensively, but I won't argue that he is a better hitter than Alex Rodriguez. A-Rod also had his best season, hitting an eye-popping 54 home runs and driving in 156 runs while boasting a .314 batting average. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that he will win his third MVP award of his career.

Based on statistics alone, A-Rod is clearly the better player to have on a team, but most sports aren't simply about what you do offensively in a game. Rodriguez may be better than Lowell at hitting home runs and driving in runs, but Lowell has the advantage in every other major category.

Rodriguez may put up great numbers in the regular season, but when playoff time comes, he chokes badly. In the past three postseasons, he has hit .160 with only one home run and one RBI. Conversely, Mike Lowell has thrived in playoff settings. In his two postseason appearances, he has hit for an average of .278, with four home runs and 20 RBIs.

Furthermore, though A-Rod plays good defense at third base, his fielding abilities pale in comparison to Lowell's. Not only is Lowell the best current defensive third baseman, but he also leads all third basemen in the history of baseball with a .976 fielding percentage. There is no player in the league who plays third base better than Lowell, and that includes A-Rod.

Lastly, Lowell is a better pick for the Red Sox than Rodriguez because of his salary. Lowell made \$9 million this season, while A-Rod raked in over \$27 million. A-Rod will probably cost teams over \$30 million a year now, thanks in part to his MVP season and his unrelenting, money-grubbing agent. Their price tags say that Rodriguez is over three times as valuable as Lowell, but that is just nonsense, because statistically, they are not that far off from one another.

Away from the field, Lowell is portrayed as a humble and fun-loving guy, loved by his teammates. But Rodriguez has a tendency to cause problems in the clubhouse and draw unfavorable media attention. Almost everyone is familiar with the picture of A-Rod on the cover of *The New York Times* heading into a club with a woman other than his wife. Lowell is the model franchise player, and fans love him. Fans said it during the parade and will probably keep saying it until the deed is done: Re-sign Lowell!

SPORTS

Patriots Playing for Pride, Perfect Season

By PAUL BRIDEAU, I
SPORTS EDITOR

After the Redskins' game several weeks ago, it is clear that Bill Belichick and Tom Brady are "running up the score" in order to stick it to the NFL. Even though this may be great for Pats fans, several members of the national media are criticizing them for "running up the score," calling it unsportsmanlike. These journalists cannot differentiate between a child's game and the NFL. I wouldn't be surprised if they were to propose a mercy rule to ensure that these players' feelings don't get hurt. Belichick may have been slightly imprudent and careless to send his superstar quarterback into a game well out of reach, but saying that a NFL team should show mercy on offense is equally as foolish. This game against the Redskins was nearly a perfect game and truly showcased the power this team possesses. In examining this game, you begin to appreciate the rarity of this group of players.

The final score of 52-7 in the showdown at Foxborough does not necessarily exemplify Belichick's merciless nature, but simply the inability of the Redskins to stop a Patriot attack. Even Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs voiced no animosity after the game, saying, "No, I have no

problem with anything that they did." The players of the NFL are professionals, and the fact that Belichick continued to play for first downs into the fourth quarter demonstrates this team's level of intensity and pride.

The Redskins quickly found themselves in a situation in which the Patriots were executing every piece of their game plan as they went on to net 486 total yards. Per usual, Brady completed 29 out of 38 of his passes for 306 yards and five total touchdowns (two rushing). It is becoming very clear that Brady is becoming more and more comfortable with his new receiving corps. At their current pace, the Patriots will end the season with two receivers gaining over 1,200 yards and 10-plus touchdowns.

Wes Welker wore out the Redskin secondary with nine receptions for 89 yards and one touchdown. His speed inside the box drew attention away from the run, allowing returning running back Lawrence Maroney to find the holes and rush for 75 yards on 14 carries. It has become a misconception that the Patriots'

rush attack has faltered due to Brady's inconceivable season. In truth, the Patriots have rushed for 1191 yards this season, ranking fourth in the NFL. Their balanced attack continued against the Redskins as the team rushed for 152 yards on 35 attempts. If this game is any indication of how the offense will perform in the future, Patriots fans are truly in for a spectacular show.

Even though Brady surpassed both touchdown leaders of the past two years (31 for Manning in 2006; 32 for Palmer in 2005) and Joe Montana's career high (31) against the Colts two weeks ago, MVP

honors of the Redskins game must go to Mike Vrabel. Consistently overlooked and underrated, this linebacker was astounding, racking up 13 tackles, including three forced fumbles and three sacks. Two of these fumbles in the second quarter led to 10 Patriots points and one in the third led to a Roosevelt Colvin return for a touchdown. The most important of these came



NO CAPTION CAN EXPLAIN THE GREATNESS SHOWN ABOVE

Bruins Trying to Get Noticed

By MARSHALL CALDERA, II
STAFF WRITER

We live in a city where the Red Sox and Patriots are looking to repeat 2004 and win Boston two championships in the same year, where a disregarded basketball franchise has changed its outlook with a flick of Danny Ainge's wrist and where even a local college football team is having success. It's hard to imagine that anyone pays attention to the other team that plays at the Garden. But yes—although the league they play in does not draw as much attention as before, the Boston Bruins are still around and you can buy a ticket with your student I.D. for \$20.

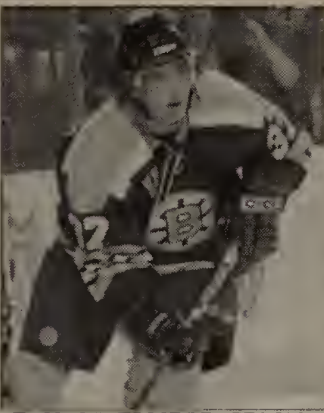
The Bruins, entering their second year under new General Manager Peter Chiarelli, have acquired a solid core of young players. They signed Zdeno Chára and playmaker Marc Savard in last year's off-season and have also drafted players such as Phil Kessel. The latest players receiving new Bruin sweaters are goalie Manny Fernandez and grinding center

Glen Metropolit. They traded for defenseman Dennis Wideman last year as well, while drafting promising left-winger Milan Lucic. All of these acquisitions add to the already-solid forwards Glen Murray, Patrice Bergeron and P.J. Axelsson. Despite this, there still weren't high expectation for the team as it entered this season.

After dropping two of their first three games, they beat down the Los Angeles Kings with the help of a Phil Kessel hat trick, edging LA with a baseball-like score of 8-6. This was a part of the 6-2 run the B's went on, while goalie Tim Thomas had the second-lowest Goals Against Average in the entire league in October. Hopefully, the last tragic moment of the season occurred when the Philadelphia Flyers' blue-liner Randy Jones gave Bergeron a concussion after a dirty hit into the boards. The young Bergeron has yet to return but held a press

conference recently saying he would do so this season. The games did not improve after this, with the Gold and Black losing five of their next six, including two games which needed extra time, one going to a shoot-out. In three of those five losses, they gave up the lead. Their current record stands at an unimposing 7-6-2, which doesn't show the promise that this team once had.

And by promise, I mean improvement over last year's 35-win team and a possible playoff spot. Perhaps the greatest progress the team made after last season was in the coaching department, firing Dave Lewis in favor of Claude Julien, who coached the New Jersey Devils to a first place 47-win season. "I want us to be a harder team to play against," said Julien, who is known for being very defense-



THIS IS PATRICE BERGERON, HE PLAYS FOR THE BRUINS

oriented. This has shown in the Bruins' play, even in their losses. The B's tend to go with the box-and-one strategy on defense, which requires discipline from the players, and so far it's been successful. While coaching and defense have shown big improvements from last year, the special teams (power play in particular) have yet to click. And, though there has been solid offensive play from Chuck Kobasew, Phil Kessel, Metropolit and Bergeron, they have been inconsistent on offense. On the defensive side, they have received quality minutes from Dennis Wideman, Andrew Ference and Chára.

After the solid start mentioned, the five losses in their last six games aren't helping the Bruins reclaim their place on the back page of the Boston Herald—or even in the first 10 pages of the sports section. Nevertheless, they have shown flashes of brilliance, especially in the earlier 6-2 run. Even if this season is not the most successful, it will be entertaining to watch this team improve and, hopefully, make a run for the postseason.

College Basketball: Memphis at the Top

By ANDREW LAWRENCE, I
STAFF WRITER

As the 2007-2008 college basketball season comes around, it appears that all the usual suspects will be at the top of the rankings. University of North Carolina, consistently one of the country's top teams, appears to be poised for a smooth ride to the championship. With returning junior Tyler Hansbrough expected to be the college basketball player of the year and possibly NBA-bound after this season, this may be the year that North Carolina returns to the top of the basketball world and win its fifth National Championship.

Another question on the minds of many critics this year is whether or not Florida will three-peat. The answer throughout the college world has been a resounding "No," saying that they are too young; don't have enough experience and

aren't prepared mentally for the challenge. They are definitely dark-horse favorites for this year. They have won the championship two years running, are young, energetic and willing to fight for their wins. Under Coach Billy Donovan, the team is scrappy and knows how to win; this is possibly the best-coached team in the country, besides Duke.

Is Boston ready for another championship team this year? Despite the departure of key players Jared Dudley and Sean Williams last season, Coach Al Skinner has molded his team around the junior Tyrese Rice and is beginning to prove why he is one of the most respected coaches in the country. The Eagles, still adjusting to one of the most competitive conferences in the league, face a tough schedule this season, including two games against UNC. But there is no doubt that Boston is the ideal sports town this year and holds some of

the best fans on the planet. After jumping to an early 2-0 start this season, it is only a matter of time before they take the polls by storm. On the wings of Rice, the Eagles will sore. Look out, Boston—here comes another championship.

Rankings:

National Champs: Memphis

Player of the Year:

Tyler Hansbrough

1. Memphis

They just added the most-highly touted recruit in the country in Derrick Rose, and the return of Joey Dorsey pretty much guarantees a successful season.

2. North Carolina

The return of Tyler Hansbrough means only one thing: wins. This team is nearly unstoppable and in the best conference in the country. They are prepared for a great tourney bid and an exciting postseason.

3. Louisville

The only threat to their dominance this season is the fear that Derrick Caracter does not bounce back from knee surgery. Although Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parrish are not walking through the door for Rick Pitino, but Earl Clark and Juan Palacios are, and in this day and age, it's just about as good as gets in the college world.

4. UCLA

This team is returning from a great season last year, and after only losing only Arron Afflalo, it is definitely on the high road to success.

5. Kansas

The only question is whether Brandon Rush can return to 100 percent after his terrible ACL injury at the end of last season, and if he does, they have a definite chance of becoming the No. 1 team in the country.



LET'S BEAT ENGLISH!

Baaallin': BLS Looking to Repeat

BY ANDREW DeSTEFANO, I
SPORTS EDITOR

Sumus primi. What comes to mind when you see these words? First public school in the country? Academic excellence? How about athletic excellence? Yes, I said athletic. Although it is true that most of our sports teams fail to excel in the very competitive Dual County League, this year's boys' basketball team is looking to rise above this history once again. The previous co-champions of the DCL are returning three starters and possess a roster of skilled athletes. But let's not start putting that 2008 banner up just yet. This team will have to out-hustle, out-run and out-rebound their opponents if they wish to be champs yet again. They lost their starting point guard to graduation and seemingly lack some much-needed height. Most importantly, if this team is to prosper, it will need to buy into the coach's system.

Head Coach Brendan Smith is enter-

ing his second season. Although year one saw great success, he has even higher aspirations for the second year. He states, "Our goal this year is to win the DCL outright and make it further into the state tournament." Smith seems very optimistic about this year's team, but he is also aware of the amount of work it will take to achieve this goal. "The DCL is a very physical league," he says. "If we plan to compete for another conference title, we will have to stress the importance of team rebounding and intense conditioning."

Team rebounding starts with physical, aggressive play in the front court. Steve O'Connell (I), Naoise Andre MacDonald (II), Christian Onuoha (III) and, of course, Wes "The Chest" Tod (I) will need to box out and remain out of foul trouble if Boston Latin wishes to control the paint.

Nevertheless, for the past few years, the real Achilles's heel for this team has been free-throw shooting. Though they have always possessed great ball-handling

and athletic ability from their back court, oftentimes their percentage from the charity stripe has been lackluster. If the off-season is any indication, this problem will quickly be solved. Senior Captains Robbie Walton and Dylan Considine claim that their off-season program has been rigorous: "We played together in the summer, participated in the fall league and started an intense weight lifting and conditioning program when we returned to school in September. We hope that this will lead to an increase in stamina and improvement in our shooting."

In spite of the weak points in their game, they enter the season as the favorite to win the DCL. Taking this into account, it's about time we students start showing some major support. Captain Chidozie Ibeabuchi (I) says that they want a "Duke-like" atmosphere at the home games. He continues, "We want everyone to show up to home games wearing their purple and white boys' basketball T-shirts (although a Wes "The Chest" shirt is an acceptable

substitute) and possibly even going to some away games on our fan bus."

Just think of this: It's a cold Sunday in December. Latin is pinned against its rival Catholic Memorial. As the Wolfpack begins to come onto the court, hundreds of fans sporting purple and white begin chanting "Let's go, Wolfpack!" at the top of their lungs. At the opening tip-off, the crazed Wolfpack nation begins jumping up and down in the stands, screaming incoherently in an attempt to create that "Duke-like" atmosphere. Imagine having the opportunity at the end of the year to run onto the court and celebrate the fact we have just won a conference title. It gives me the chills just thinking about it.

So, students, I pose a challenge: let's give these boys something extra to play for, starting on December 14 at home against Bedford. Let's show some school spirit and become the team's sixth man. Most importantly, let's teach not only the rest of the DCL, but also the rest of the state what *sumus primi* really means.

Celtic Pride poised for a comeback

BY SANCHAY JAIN, III
STAFF WRITER

The first seven games of the Celtics' basketball schedule has merely confirmed what people have been saying since the middle of the summer when the franchise undertook a drastic overhaul. Suddenly, the team that ended last season with the worst record in the Eastern Conference has cemented itself as a favorite to win the NBA finals.

Last season Captain Paul Pierce was forced to carry a heavy load for a young, struggling team. But with KG and Ray Allen, our hometown team has unleashed a furious attack on Toronto, Washington and Denver—three playoff teams from a year ago. We have seen games on both sides of the spectrum, from nail biters ending in overtime, to absolute blowouts.

While they have made their mark with a vicious first impression, the question that lingers on our minds is "Can they bring another title to the 'city of champions'?" Well, they do seem to share certain elements that all champions have.

Firstly, the Celtics have a core set of superstars. It's very rare to win it all without a couple of big names who can take over a game. We all know about the Jor-

dan-Pippen combo in Chicago, along with the recent examples of Duncan-Parker-Ginobili in San Antonio and the Shaq-Kobe run in LA. The big three of Boston—dominant big-man Kevin Garnett, sweet-shooting Allen and swing man Pierce, the face of the franchise for seven years—clearly represent a strong nucleus of talent. Each player is capable of putting up 30 points on any given night, and with such a vast array of methods to beat an op-

ponent, it makes it that much harder for them to be stopped. What is also important is the fact that each of these stars has

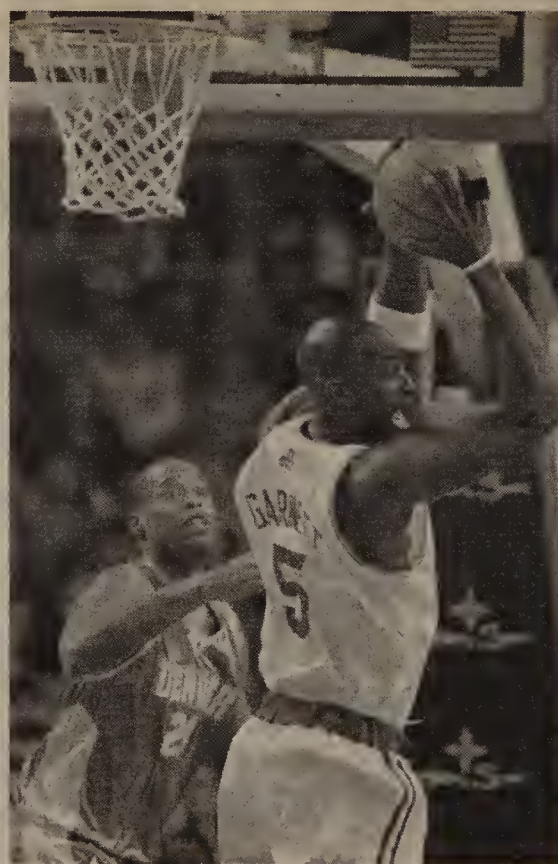
never even reached the NBA finals, which means they all have the drive and desire to capture that elusive crown at last.

Secondly, their defense is phenomenal. Very few teams play the "run 'n gun" style of offense while possessing the stamina necessary to play lock-down defense; examples of such teams are the Phoenix Suns and the Dallas Mavericks. Do they own a single trophy between them? It's important to play an adequate style of defense, and recent examples such as the San Antonio Spurs and Detroit Pistons show that defense might actually win championships. Thus far, the C's have shown aggression on this side of the court, especially in the barrage on Denver, where they managed to limit Carmelo Anthony

to nine points, and the entire team to 38 points in the first half. With hard working players like KG, hopefully this team can continue to show such dedication throughout the year.

Thirdly, they have the all important veteran role players such as the Robert Horrys, Derek Fishers and Bruce Bowens of the league—the men who will put in 110 percent effort and provide game-saving plays and timely shooting. After the masterful trade that brought Garnett to Boston, the Celtics managed to sign some of these valuable veterans to their roster, such as James Posey and Eddie House. The revamped bench should pay dividends by the end of the season and into the playoffs.

Finally, in addition to these three keys of success, the coach, Doc Rivers, has a lot to prove this season, as he looks to advance deep into the playoffs. Youngsters like point guard Rajon Rondo and big-man Kendrick Perkins look to develop their evolving skills under the wing of the Big 3. As a result, inexperience may be the biggest problem for this squad, but will hopefully be offset by the battle-tested KG, Allen, Pierce and the superb veteran role players. Boston, we have yet another title contender to watch in this town. Will this ever get old? No.



KG'S PRESENCE IN THE PAINT IS IRREPLACEABLE

Inside the NUMB3RS

52 The amount of money in dollars that Alex Rodriguez will be earning per *minute* over the next 10 years.

3 Number of consecutive appearances in the MLS Championship for the New England Revolution. No title yet.

109 Yards Antonio Cromartie ran to return a missed field goal for a touchdown against the Vikings. It was the longest play in NFL history.

4125 Gallons of water consumed by our BLS football players purely on the team's hydration plan over the course of this season.

5 Counts of perjury and obstruction of justice Barry Bonds was charged with. **35** Percentage of the American public that rooted for him to break the home run record. **65** Percentage of sane people in America.

3 Number of words in the phrase "Ho, Ho, Ho," which Santas in Sydney were banned from saying because it closely resembled the slang for prostitute. What is the world coming to?



Sumus Primi? BLS Reacts to National Rank

By MARIA WEISSMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

Recently, the halls of Boston Latin School have been abuzz with news of the institution's latest honor: The U.S. News and World Report ranked Latin School #19 on their list of the best public high schools in the nation. In its analysis of 18,790 public high schools, the publication sought to evaluate the quality of education and students' preparation for the rigors of college studies.

Many students and faculty members are pleased that the Latin School has received national recognition. "It's a very significant honor," said Mr. Jim Montague, "I am proud of all the students and their accomplishments."

Some students, however, have mixed feelings about the ranking. "It's nice to gain national recognition," Calvin Atkinson (I) explains, "but the 'Sumus Primi' [mantra] is literally making me wish we were higher up... I look at the list and wonder: what's so great about #1-18?" Several other students were likewise dissatisfied. "I was a little disappointed. I mean, I thought that after all the work we do... all the pressure, we'd be a bit higher," said Karen Zepeda (I). As Latin School's motto is "Sumus Primi,"

these sentiments are perhaps inevitable.

U.S. News and World Report uses a three-step system to rank schools. First, reading and math scores from state standardized tests given in the 2005-2006 school year were collected. Then, the number of economically disadvantaged students enrolled at each school was assessed. Using these data, evaluators decided which schools were performing above their statistical expectations.

In step two, the performance rate of each school's disadvantaged students, classified as underrepresented minorities and those from low-income families, were gauged and compared to the state average for this particular demographic.

Schools with high ranks after the first two steps proceeded to the final stage. During this last assessment, judges

analyzed the college-readiness of students.

This evaluation was broken down as follows: 25% was based on the average of Advanced Placement (AP) participation for seniors; 75% was derived from a quality-adjusted AP participation rate, calculated by dividing the number of seniors with at least one passing score of 3 or higher by the total number of seniors in the class.

Gold medals were awarded to the top 100 public high schools. The next 405 ranked high schools were given silver medals, and the remaining 1,086 high schools received bronze medals.

While Latin School received high ratings in many categories, the performance of its disadvantaged students was particularly high, surpassing even the first

place school, Thomas Jefferson High, by a margin of 15.3.

Ironically, Latin School's college readiness index was relatively low, coming in at 87.3 with a maximum of 100. Many feel that since 25% of this index is determined by average AP participation, Boston Latin School is immediately at a disadvantage, as students are restricted to three AP classes per school year. Only select students who receive waivers are allowed to take four AP courses during their senior year, a limitation few other schools face.

Furthermore, some students believe that U.S. News should evaluate schools more holistically. "There's much more to a school than just test scores. What about the healthiness of the students? I think that should be one of the questions they ask—how much sleep do you get and how happy are you in this school?" said Nadia Westcott (I). Mr. Montague, however, explained that such qualities are "very difficult to quantify."

In the end, Boston Latin School's ratings are only numbers. As Mr. Malcolm Flynn said, "The ranking of schools isn't as simple as it appears. We can use all kinds of criteria. If we start analyzing, we're just being sour grapes."



U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKED BLS #19

WWW.BLS.ORG

C-SPAN Visits BLS

By LILLY ZHAO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On December 12, Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN)'s Campaign2008 Bus visited Boston Latin School as part of the Road to the White House Tour. This year, Latin School was invited to be featured in the *Washington Journal*, a national political call-in show broadcasted on C-SPAN every morning from 7 to 10, as one of the tour stops that the Bus makes on its way across the Northeast to New Hampshire for the primary season. Beginning in 1992, C-SPAN's Election Bus has traveled around the country to raise awareness of various national issues that concern American citizens. During segments of the *Washington Journal*, experts discuss these concerns in live television forums. In this particular segment, hosted by Greta Wodele, eight students enrolled in Latin School's U.S. Government & Politics courses called in from 8:30 to 9:30 to pose questions to Tax Analyst Daniel Mitchell of Cato Institute and Former Deputy Assistant Treasury Secretary for Economic Policy Bruce Bartlett about the current tax system and the possible effects of a national sales tax, or Fair Tax.

Mitchell and Bartlett expressed

contrasting viewpoints regarding this significant economic policy. While Mitchell is in favor of the Fair Tax, which will eliminate all income taxes and instead place taxes on all consumer spending, Bartlett believes that it "simply will not work" given its proposed criteria.

Mitchell argues that the current tax system, consisting of the Internal Revenue System (IRS), is "a big hindrance to our global competitiveness" and "a major source of political corruption." The national sales tax "applied across the board" allows for "a single low-rate consumption-based tax," said Mitchell. From Mitchell's standpoint, such implementation would promote savings and investments, which would, in turn, stimulate the economy for years to come. Furthermore, the paycheck would involve the gross pay rather than the net pay. "The economic principle [is that] you get taxed on what you take out of the economy, not what you put into

the economy," said Mitchell. In contrast, Bartlett argues that the Fair Tax is poorly designed. "A rate of 23% is pure deception," said Bartlett, referring to the national sales tax rate, as it differs from the current sales tax at the state and local levels. During the call-in session, Latin School students asked questions ranging from



BLS STUDENTS POSE QUESTIONS ON NATIONAL TV

the functions of a Fair Tax to its implications for consumer spending and investments. "With little preparation and background knowledge of a difficult issue, our talented students were able to pose

substantive, quality questions to experts in the field—as it was just another showcase of the talented student body at our school," said Mr. Rashaun Martin, head of the Latin School History Department. "It was impressive that they'd pick our school to come to. It was interesting to be able

to put your thoughts into something that mattered on the world's stage," said Peter Rice (I), one of the student participants. Andrew Connors (I), who asked about the inherent difficulty in obtaining majorities in House and Senate to pass amendments to the Constitution, or replacing the 16th Amendment that established federal income taxes, posed "the hardest question," according to Mitchell. "It was exciting to see the responses of experts on television to students' questions. I liked how we set the direction of the program on national television," said Connors. Even for students who did not participate, the event itself was significant. "It brought a lot of publicity to the school, and connected the students to ongoing political situations," said Andrew Lawrence (I). "They must think highly of our school if they believed that we would have insightful questions to ask on a national call-in show," said Raymond Leung (I). As Mr. Martin said, "Most importantly, students were given the opportunity to learn about an issue that is bound to affect them as they become adult voters—an issue that they may not have a knowledge of or an interest in before the discussion." "Our school was seen, and the questions of our talented students were heard by probably more than half of the country," he added.

Global News Tidbits

>>>A man in Montpelier, Vermont claims to have found an unwrapped condom in his Burger King sandwich. "My third bite into the burger, it was just a foreign taste," said Van Miguel Hartless, 24. "It was a very sour, bitter sort of taste. It almost had a numbing sensation." Hartless plans to sue the restaurant owner on account of physical

and mental suffering. Apparently, 'condom'ents have taken on a new meaning. (AP)

>>>This year's winners of the 11th annual "Wacky Warning Label Contest," sponsored by Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, found some pretty strange labels. The first prize label was found on a tractor and said: "Danger: Avoid Death." Second prize went to the warning "Do not iron while wearing shirt" found on

an iron-on T-shirt transfer. Third prize was seen in a small side pouch on a baby stroller cautioning: "Do not put child in bag." (AP)

>>>A former Scottish school teacher was accidentally locked inside the bathroom at a bowling club after "the door jammed and the handle on the outside fell off." The man kept warm by dipping his feet and hands in warm water and was finally rescued after four days without food when

the club's janitor arrived to get her cleaning equipment. (Reuters)

>>>A man at an airport in Nuremburg allegedly gulped down a liter of vodka. Bringing large quantities of liquid onto a plane is prohibited due to new airport rules, so the man chugged the whole bottle instead of throwing it away. He was sent to the hospital afterwards on account of severe alcohol poisoning. (AP)



Editor's Note

The holiday season emerges from hibernation annually around Thanksgiving (or August if you're Wal Mart) with its faithful procession of egg nog, festive lights and those red Santa caps with the white fuzz ball dangling from the top. The holiday spirit functions as a magic elixir, as the sight of gaudy wrapping paper can transform a sullen grinch into a bubbly caroler. Such a panacea would have softened the Scrooge-like temperaments of the exasperated *Argo* editors who spent this last production week toiling away on an issue straight from the fiery pits of Hades. In fact, by the end of the week, at least two editors swore that they saw Satan, which coincidentally is an anagram of Santa, manifest himself in a pop-up ad on their computer monitors.

I wish this was one of our usual hyperbolic *Argo* rants but sadly there are actual threads of truth to it. Our problems

stemmed from a misunderstanding with our printer. To avoid a long and drawn out rant allow us to summarize: intoxicated by the holiday spirit, our printer decided to shut down its press well before the *Argo's* anticipated publishing date. Consequently, our production schedule was cut short by three days forcing our editors to work overtime in an effort.

To make matters worse, one of our rival high school newspapers paid off God himself, to further its saboteur efforts. As the snow began to pour down mightily on our intended final day of production, it appeared that the Heavens were mocking us. When Ms. Mooney Teta announced that school would be closing promptly at 2:15 on Thursday, preventing us from utilizing the school's computer lab, the *Argo* staff let out a collective groan. We knew that we would have to drastically revise our editing plans if we would meet our deadline at noon of the next day. The entire *Argo* staff subsequently trekked through the blizzard and made our way to Roslindale where we proceeded to pull an all-nighter, editing the entire paper at the gracious home of A&E Editor Oliver Anderson. The one bright spot in this tumultuous week occurred at approximately 10 p.m. on

Thursday when the new Superintendent answered our prayers by cancelling school on Friday. The ecstatic yells from our editors were quickly drowned by multiple gulps of coffee and a surreal night of editing that ended at about 8:32 a.m. with the completion of this editors' note.

Somehow the editors managed to work a holiday miracle. Not only did they survive the torrents of excruciating pain but they also managed to churn out a newspaper in the process. The upcoming holiday break comes as a relief to all Boston Latin School students but for the *Argo* editors it will also be a time to mend wracked brain cells.

So enjoy this issue and forgive the grammatical mistakes, for it is more than likely that the derelict editor incurred an aneurism while attempting to perform his duties.

The *Argo* is now trying to concentrate all the holiday spirit it can get its hands on into one giant syringe. A massive injection will be subsequently administered into the floundering heart of the newspaper. On that note, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

-Andrew Klein and Alexander Zhu
Editors-in-Chief

A Different Look at Class Officers

BY OLIVER ANDERSON, I
A&E EDITOR

Well, as much as we don't care, it seems that class officers still exist. So, you ask yourself, what haven't they done for us? Well, plenty, but the good news is that they've actually gotten things done in the last couple of weeks. I did some investigative reporting, i.e. a 30 second phone call to one Galen McDonald, and learned that the long sought-after open office is soon to be upon us. Starting Tuesdays, Galen will be open for business in room 135, from 2:30 to 3:30. I plan to ask him what he plans to do about the serial pooper.

Furthermore, a source very close to the *Argo* has reported that thanks to better-than-expected fundraising by the Class of 2007, the Class of 2008 has raised all the funds needed this year. This means that by buying all those sweatshirts (I never got one, outrage anyone?) we have completed our goal. It's all fun stuff from here.

But, while there seems to be some forward movement, like an old man on the toilet, the bowels of government at Boston Latin School are constipated and temperamental. I have heard a rumor that Ms. Mooney Teta, who enjoyed the

senior privilege of leaving during a last period study, may allow the same to seniors. There still is no word on whether we have to come to school at all, ever, but reports aren't good. Morgon Banks, Class Treasurer, when asked about this issue said: "I think you have to come to school." Upon more research the *Argo* has discovered that, yes, you have to attend school. Dream crushed.

With the winter closing in around us, like a giant, wet, 20 degree bear hug, our minds must turn to the coming spring. Promises of a field day for the senior class are still unconfirmed, even though local sex-symbol Oliver Anderson says: "Yeah, that would be great. I would really enjoy that." Whether or not he was coked out of his skull at the time of the interview is still being corroborated, but all evidence seems to point to yes.

So how should the Class of '08 support its class officers? "This is a question that has been asked for years," says Secretary Jamie Fitzpatrick, "and the only answer is to be vigilant at all times." The need to be vigilant seems to be ever present as threats against the Class President and his staff mount in these ever-dangerous times.

A frequent topic of debate, both

between the officers themselves and the upper class populous, is that there is a nascent sense of community, just beginning to form in the senior class. How can we have such wonderful events like a field day and class privileges if we don't form a friendly, cohesive group? Without social infrastructure and the concept that we have to *like* each other, we simply cannot have the end of the year extravaganza that we seem to expect. This is a battle that we all must fight in order to enjoy a positive conclusion to the year.

We put a lot of pressure on the class officers, and we well should. They represent us and as a class, it is we who benefit from our high expectations. But at the same time, we need to be wary of over-inflating our suppositions. They are, in fact, just students here at the same school you go to, and while they are representatives they are dealing with an administration that is often extremely set in its ways. We have some hope for new life with Ms. Mooney Teta, but always remember that the class officers are students facing an often daunting bureaucracy. Galen has given more transparency than ever before with his office hours, and it is in our best interest to take advantage of this opportunity.

Boston Latin School *Argo*
2007-2008 Academic Year

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The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in Sports Writing

New 2007 Honorable Mention
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in News Writing

Should High Schools Tell All?

YES



NO

Last year, the Common Application, accepted by over 300 colleges and universities added two yes or no questions, “Have you ever been found responsible for an academic or disciplinary violation at your high school?” and “have you ever been convicted of a felony?” Some high schools, BLS included? Do not answer either question, worried that the college may not admit the student if the answer is yes.

BY GABRIELLA COLOYAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s that time of year again: application time. Ask any senior how their college applications are going, and almost undoubtedly you’ll get the same response: an exasperated, exhausted sigh, followed by a roll of the eyes and a pitiful declamation “I’m nowhere near done yet.” Many high schools feel that their primary interest ought to be helping students, but by answering the new Common App questions they could dash those students’ college dreams. However, the response to this new requirement was astounding: across the nation, less than a quarter of high schools actually complied. For those who have cheated their way through high school, this is good news. After all, who wants his prospective colleges to know he has gotten caught cheating multiple times?

Nevertheless, while not releasing these potentially harmful records is helpful to those who have done wrong, it is not fair to those of us who have followed the rules all these years. Let’s say that my good friend John Doe, next to me in Calculus, has cheated on three tests this month alone. Not only has he been caught once, but he has a higher average than I do. Now, Johnny looks like a more appealing candidate to colleges because it seems like he is able to excel at Calc and I cannot.

Trying to help him out, Johnny’s guidance counselor decides not to send his disciplinary record to his colleges, but without mentioning his history of cheating. Sure, this is great for him, but terrible for me and the other honest kids in my class who might have lower scores than he does. Sure, Johnny’s counselor is helping him out, but is indirectly putting the students at a disadvantage, as we are now overshadowed by a person who seems like a math whiz, and in reality is not.

Even more ominously, disciplinary violations can a harbinger of a violent future. They can go on your record when you do things such as start a fight or bring a weapon into school. Should a guidance counselor choose not to release this information to a college, the safety of the other prospective students is jeopardized. The last thing I want my first year at college is a repeat of last April’s Virginia Tech massacre in which Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people. Is this an extreme case? Maybe. But, as the number of violent incidents at educational institutions is on the rise, students want to be able to sleep soundly in my dorm at night knowing that they are safe from harm.

I understand that high schools feel that their primary responsibility lies in getting their students accepted into college. However, colleges need to consider not only the well-being of their own students, but the safety and lives of the thousands of other individuals their students will interact with. Is it better to cover for one student or protect thousands?

All I can ask for is that next year, when I finally go off to college, my college has done its job by making sure that I will be in a secure environment. When I go to bed at night I want to know that I can rest easily knowing that I deserve to be there and am safe and sound from the moment I wake up to the moment I go to sleep.

BY SAMANTHA KAUFMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

Seniors in high school are judged on everything. When applying to colleges it seems as though enigmatic admissions officers are scrutinizing every decision they have made. The college process is not a fair one; that is an incontrovertible truth. As competition for a small number of seats increases year by year, so increases the judgment each student faces.

Over three hundred schools utilize the Common Application. Its advent has made life easier for students, guidance counselors and the colleges themselves due to the standardization of many of the forms. Last year, two new questions were added to both the student forms as well as the guidance recommendation forms. These two questions pertain to the students’ disciplinary records as well as criminal ones. On these forms, the applicant has two options: yes or no. There is no box to mark off minor offenses or misdemeanor; students may attach any type of explanation separately. These questions are completely inappropriate and the colleges have no right to ask them. Furthermore, their legality is still being debated. Are counselors even allowed to release information about a criminal record?

Everyone makes mistakes—especially as young adolescents. Getting into trouble is not uncommon for teenagers and should in no way become evidence of a person’s character or potential. These colleges claim that minor offenses, such as cutting class, will not be held against a student. In reality, the questions automatically create a bias. Clearly, if you mark down yes for either question, it automatically casts a negative light on the person. A college could automatically disregard your application if you have a criminal record for a minor offense such as getting caught with marijuana or a disciplinary one from ninth grade because you shared homework.

Today it seems as though privacy is nonexistent; colleges have access to everything about you. They can even gain access to your Facebook profile. These days, as colleges try to find more about their applicants, it is becoming as though one cannot afford to make a single poor decision. While unmistakably, posting drunken pictures of yourself entitled “OMG we are sooooOoo tootly tra\$shed!r” is a terrible idea, these slip-ups should not put our future on the line.

Many colleges claim that they deserve to know if a student has a history of violence or cheating. Yes, that is true, they do. However, they need to find another way to acquire that type of information, which is quite intrusive, instead of asking a general blanket question that could trap innocent students who have one or two violations. If a college truly has that many concerns about a certain student, they should have to look up public, criminal records themselves; but they can’t. There’s a reason why juvenile records are treated with more privacy than those of adults.

It should not be the responsibility of the guidance counselor to rat out a student who may be on their way to great things but has acted out once or twice. Instead, colleges should have more comprehensive surveys directed towards students who actually could pose a threat or have been caught cheating on numerous occasions. They should not be able just to ask about any disciplinary record. What colleges should do is ask guidance counselors whether they have any reservations about a student in terms of their emotional capacity or their tendencies towards criminal behavior. We know that guidance counselors often do have these opinions; Seung-Hui Cho, the Virginia Tech shooter, had been advised against applying to the large university by his guidance counselors. That serious information was never passed along to the university. There is a difference between mental instability and a suspension.

The heart of this matter is that our privacy and the right towards an unbiased application process are at risk. And while colleges claim that small infractions will not be held against a student, it does not warrant their inquiry. If colleges need to find out serious information they need to change their questioning tactics. Lumping all offenders into one checkbox is not the answer. Students should not be stigmatized for every single bad decision they have made.

Forum Question

Should high schools tell colleges about applicants' shaky pasts?



“No. The school should only be responsible for reporting academic achievements. There should be a system established to look for criminal records.”

—Mark O'Donnell, I



“No, because a felony would not represent the students’ academic capabilities.”

—Yuxiao Zhang, II



“I don’t think that someone’s criminal record should affect their entrance into college. They would likely fix their futures [if they went on to higher education.]”

—Renée Omolade, III



“Yes because although it could affect whether they are accepted or not, it’s an important thing for the college to know.”

—Barbara Carvalho, IV



“Yes because the college you’re applying should know if their future students have committed a felony or not.”

—Annie McDonnell, V



“No. The only thing that matters is intelligence.”

—Khalid Sharmarke, VI

FORUM

Dear Santa,

BY RICHARD PENG, I
LAYOUT EDITOR

I've thought about this for a long time, and I've come to realize that your business model is flawed in many ways. Don't get me wrong; I applaud your efforts to spread holiday cheer to little children, but there are many areas in which you can improve.

The first mistake, obviously, is in your revenue streams: you have none. I'm not telling you to charge kids for your gifts, but it might make sense to try and lessen your economic and accounting losses. After all, a firm usually goes bankrupt when it runs a high deficit. The solution is to generate some revenue and I'd like to suggest the Google™ method. You can still give your gifts away for free, but include a few ads along with it. I'm sure there are lots of companies that are willing to pay for targeted advertising, especially to young children. The increased revenue stream would also mean that you could finally pay those elves. They might seem happy in the media, but you're pretty much running a sweatshop if you're forcing your workers to live in the snowy North Pole without being paid. And let's not kid ourselves, Nick, being associated with sweatshop is bad for public relations-- just ask Nike™.

Speaking about public relations, have you ever considered changing your operating policy? I know it's a tradition to give the naughty kids coal, but I think you need to modify your strategy a little. After all, with a barrel of oil at its current price, free energy isn't really a punishment. In fact, it almost seems like you're rewarding bad behavior. In addition, I don't think you should condone global warming. If you're adamant about giving energy to naughty children, please consider ethanol or small solar panels.

This month's issue of the *Argo* has been rushing to meet its deadline, and that made me think about how you only face this challenge once a year. That means you're only in operation one month of the year and therefore have eleven months of excess capacity. Whatever factory or production facility you've got under all that snow's barely running at 8.3% efficiency. Have you thought about expanding into other markets? Personally I think you should expand into the Easter business; you could definitely take up a large chunk of the Easter Bunny's market share. You really need to find a way to put those elves to work. Otherwise, you'll end up in the same predicament as General Motors, having to make dramatic staff cuts before they hit elf retirement age. You could also lower the number of employed elves, keeping a few for show and outsourcing the rest of the December work to China and India.

On a final note regarding public relations, I think you need to create a new image. The public currently sees you as a morbidly obese old man who's on some kind of chemical high. It doesn't help that the current you was created by Coca Cola to sell their soft drink. I propose you seek out a more fashion-oriented company this time around to help you create a new look. First, you need to lose weight. It's bad for your health and also sets a bad example to the increasing number of obese children in our world. Second, you've got to lose the furry red suit. A suit makes you look professional, but you need to go with black or some shade of gray. The only suits that should be furry are pimp suits and that may be what got you in trouble in Sydney in the first place. "Ho, ho ho!"

Teachers Don't Know My Name

BY QUEEN ARSEEM-O'MALLEY, II
STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of junior year, as a little welcome-back-to-school present, you'll get a barrage of college information, and the tip that you'd better be really, really nice to your teachers, because they're the only people who can get you into college or help you get a job. The very same people that you curse behind their backs in the halls when they assign too much homework are the ones that will have to write a glowing report about the quality of your work and personality in a letter of recommendation.

And how, exactly, are they supposed to do this? Your teacher might know your opinion on whether the story of Beowulf is more Christian or pagan in theme, but do they know how many hours you spend doing that homework each night? From a teacher-student relationship, do they know anything about you?

Leaders of extracurricular activities know their students much better than most academic teachers. They spend more one-on-one time with each student, during which one can feel more comfortable because you are not glued to a small metal chair in the back of the room. They can honestly say that they know you, your opinions, your personality, and as a result can write about you more as an individual person and less as another student.

The sad truth, however, is that

academic teachers are the ones expected to write these recommendations. Part of the consideration for our title of the "19th Best High School In The Country Even Though We're A Public School!" was the number of AP classes offered to students. While AP classes are great—a challenging course and college credit for cheap—cramming in an entire curriculum, plus the test review, before the test is administered in early May, doesn't exactly allow for "time to get to know each other." So how can teachers be expected to crank out a page-long recommendation? How much do they really know about that student and how well they work in that particular class?

With almost no one-on-one discussion, students barely get to know their fellow classmates, let alone a teacher who has to instruct 150 students. It's not a realistic view, so why ask for it? Discussion-based classes are the only way for a teacher to really get to know students, and those types of classes are severely lacking at Boston Latin School (the only one that comes to mind is Facing History). Most classes are too big to get to know everyone, and class periods too short to do anything but what is required for that day. At other schools, there are double periods, leaving more time to cover material; at private schools, classes are smaller. Since we are a public school, those factors are out of our control, but what can be done is to encourage room

for discussion to supplement lectures. While this might not be applicable to every subject, it could be further incorporated into some departments' classes, such as English. Is visiting a teacher after school hours or volunteering in their office the only way to get to know him or her?

Recommendations from guidance counselors are also required by many schools. Though my guidance counselor is fab and even happens to know my name, I've only met with her seven times. Ever. A detailed recommendation should be from somebody who knows you well. Hopefully, that person has spent enough time with you, if not one-on-one then at least in a smaller group than 30 people.

A teacher asked to write a recommendation for a student he or she doesn't know well might not be able to represent the student accurately. The student will have to ask another teacher and another and another until someone writes the positive comments that colleges want to see. No matter how much thought a teacher puts into writing one, it'll probably end up looking like the hundreds of others that filter through admissions offices. So what's the point? To prove that you have, at least once in your life, spoken to a teacher? Instead, recommendations should be from extracurricular leaders or other people in similar positions who know their students better than academic teachers.

Have You Gone Waterboarding?

BY BEN COLB, II
STAFF WRITER

From the coasts of Cuba to the edge of the Caspian Sea, waterboarding, an extreme sports craze, has swept the globe. In the past month, it has come under a great deal of criticism, though historically it has been popular worldwide for decades, its never been under the spotlight as prominently as it is today. Where can you try waterboarding for yourself? All it requires are a few household objects, perhaps most importantly, a towel.

For those unaware readers, the procedure of waterboarding is as follows: an individual is gagged, tied down on an inclined board with a plastic bag, cloth, seran-wrap or a towel placed over their face. The next step (this is the fun part) involves pouring water over the person's head, causing the prisoner to experience the sensation of drowning and, much of the time, water enters the lungs. It is very effective in breaking the will of suspects and forcing them into a confession, but it also has consequences: prolonged deprivation of oxygen results in brain damage, and bones are broken as the prisoners struggle against their restraints. Sadly, this process is not the result of American ingenuity, but rather has a great history of use in wartime.

The new Attorney General, Michael Mukasey, found himself in a very awkward last month. During his confirmation hearing in front of a panel of senators he was asked if this "enhanced interrogation technique" was a lawful practice and if he supported its use. He unequivocally stated his opposition to torture but at the same time questioned whether the practice of waterboarding fell under that unpleasant and inconvenient label.

There is no question that waterboarding is torture. If Mukasey, or any other politician is not sure, maybe they should try a round of it to help make up their mind. This sordid practice has a sordid past. In the 1500's, it was the rage in Spain for use in Inquisition, but even they recognized it as "*tortura del agua*". In World War II, a Japanese officer named Yukio Asano was charged and sentenced

made bad press for Bush and his *cabinet*, and indeed there are very simple reasons why the Bush Administration must publicly deny that these approved practices do not "constitute torture". The U.S. is just one of more than sixty signatories to the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel and Degrading Punishment, adopted in 1984. Article I of this conven-

tion defines torture as an act by which "severe pain, physical or mental," is inflicted. This deflates any argument that waterboarding does not necessarily constitute torture. Certainly the fear of drowning qualifies as mental suffering. In the Nuremberg Charter of 1945, the criminal charges listed against the Axis Powers were separated into three categories: crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Waterboarding was considered torture and categorized as a war crime; it's hypocritical for the current administration to justify the use of the same "interrogation techniques" on individuals that the government has prosecuted our former enemies for using.

It is, of course, unknown just how widely waterboarding is used against suspected terrorist combatants, many of whom have been detained in secret CIA-run prisons located in numerous countries. The Bush administration works within legal loopholes of questionable morality by detaining and transferring suspected combatant subjects to other countries, where torture occurs in their own prisons. Free airfare to Azerbaijan or Guantanamo Bay is as easy as a phone call to your friend Al Keyda. And just think, when you get home, you'll have quite a story to tell.



ONLY ONE ARGO MEMBER WAS HARMED IN THE MAKING OF THIS PICTURE

to fifteen years of hard labor by the U.S. government in 1947 for his practice of this technique on a U.S. civilian. This was not an isolated incident; torture similar to water boarding was used by the Japanese and German secret police forces. While reporting on the Algerian War a decade later, French journalist Henri Alleg had a firsthand experience with the torture and stated that "accidental" deaths of Algerian prisoners resulted from the use of water torture by French Armed Forces. Water torture is also known to have been used by the genocidal Cambodian regime of the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979 on prisoners alongside even more horrific treatment.

Torture scandals have frequently

FORUM

Where's Our Money? Blame Canada

BY WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, III
STAFF WRITER

The worst possible thing that could have happened to the United States has just happened. No, DC didn't get nuked, Bush didn't secretly pass a law letting him remain president for life, Saddam Hussein didn't rise from the dead with a zombie army and Osama bin Laden didn't sneak into the National Archives to rip up the Constitution—the Canadian dollar was momentarily worth more than the American dollar.

Now I know you all of you are must be tearing out your hair, but we've taking care of the issue. From September 23 until December 3 the Canadian dollar quietly rose and overcame the American dollar. We have long derided the Canadians for their ludicrous mounted police and their bear-to-human ratio, but rarely, perhaps never, have we been stuck in the position of Canadians coming to America to take advantage of cheaper goods here. Though the dollar is on top at the moment, its supremacy over its Canadian counterpart is still teetering.

Although the American national spirit may be feeling high once again, it's the thrill one gets while skydiving, just before discovering that the parachute is missing. While the United States has the largest economy in the world, and the most costly military in the world, neither of these statistics are increasing at the rapid speed of many other developing countries; such as India and China.

How many global products do you think are produced in the U.S.? Your answer, like mine, is probably "not very many". In the U.S., labor costs are high enough, and regulation in developing countries is lax enough that companies figure they will make more profit by paying workers overseas less money to make their products.

It's not too hard to see why. Let's say Honest American Manufacturing Inc., hires Mr. Joe Schmoe, a good, hardwork-

ing American. He works eight hours a day to earn a living wage, and receives healthcare coverage for himself and his family. He's also a member of a union, along with fellow workers to insure adequate working conditions.

All of a sudden HAM Inc. decides to lay off Mr. Schmoe and move its plant to Central America. There, they can get a 12-year-old, who isn't in school because his family needs the money, to do Joe's job, except the 12-year-old gets paid far less money and works much longer hours than Mr. Schmoe. Forget about

landmarks, they just want good deals on a pair of sunglasses or a new computer. They get a good deal since 5 Euros is equivalent to \$7.32. Forget about traveling to Europe—your Lincoln only gets you 3.40 Euros. What will you do when that charming éclair you bought from a poor Parisian pushcart-owner turns out to have cost you half your college savings?

Another economic fiasco—the U.S. debt is now over \$9 trillion. Nine *trillion* dollars. While I can't even comprehend that much money, it's even harder to grasp that this debt is part of a vast, malevolent

scheme—and not one based in Washington. This is a scheme of old people. Once the phrase "don't trust anyone over thirty" was a slogan of the idealistic, and now it seems to ring true. Our parents aren't going to be paying back this debt: they'll be in retirement, not filing income taxes. Instead, the ones who will be paying for this debt will be us. Right now, the people who finance this national debt by buying U.S. government bonds are located outside the country. It is as though our govern-

ment owes proverbial Joe "Chang" cold hard cash, with interest, in the future.

Politicians love to offer the American people choices that sound win-win, like, "If we lower taxes, then experts have said revenue will increase! So the government will have more money and you'll have more money, too!" But there aren't many easy choices in government, and many choices end up bitter later on. And that's the way it is now: nothing comes for free.

The U.S. owes so much money because it does not possess enough funds to pay off each year's installment on the debt. The government is forced to borrow

more money. The government cannot pay off the debt because the war in Iraq eats up so much of the U.S. Treasury's revenue. Then foreign countries buy bonds in America's debt, increasing the trade deficit. Increasing the trade deficit then makes the economy worse because there's less paid work being done in the US, and more abroad. As the economy gets worse, the vicious cycle begins all over again.

When we went into Iraq, the Bush administration estimated that the total cost of the war would be \$51 billion. Now, the amount spent has risen to \$474.5 billion. We're spending the equivalent of four years of a college education, \$196,000, every minute in Iraq. If the moderate estimate for the total costs is over \$2 trillion, I'm almost afraid to ask the question: in the worst-case scenario, how much would we be spending?

President Bush is doing more to destroy our country, both now and for future generations. He actually cut taxes while in war! No president in US history has ever done this, for a reason: wars cost money. Tax cuts cost money. Doing two things that both cost lots of money at the same time is bad when you have limited monetary funds. Even you should be able to understand that, Mr. Bush!

And these weren't even tax cuts that helped people who needed money. These were tax cuts for already obscenely rich people who pay less than everyone else percentage-wise, because they can afford to hire fancy accountants to put their money in the "Cayman Islands Holding Corporation" and exploit other loopholes.

The two major factors that affect international currency rates seem to be trade deficits and national debt. President Bush has affected both catastrophically; in addition to the tax cuts during war, as a popular bumper sticker says, "When Bush Took Office, Gas Was \$1.46."

We must remember, President Bush is most certainly over 30. So on second thought, perhaps the thing we need to worry least about are the Canadians.



FOR A FEW MONTHS THIS YEAR THE CANADIAN DOLLAR HAS BEEN SUPERIOR

healthcare or unions — if you so much as breathe wrong, you're out of a job and another starving, underage laborer takes your place. What is even more frightening for American workers is that many are not unionized, do not have adequate healthcare and get very low pay. Despite this, companies can still turn more profit by throwing ethics to the wind and moving production overseas.

While rising trade deficits may seem bad now, it will only get worse. US currency will continue to be worth less than its foreign counterparts. Now, bus-loads of European tourists come to the U.S... just to shop! Forget visiting our

Free Rice, Free Conscience

BY DENISE NGUYEN, II
A&E ASSISTANT EDITOR

Stygian: a.) HAGGARD b.) LUKEWARM c.) GLOOMY d.) ALERT.

If you said "gloomy," a person in a developing country now has 20 more grains of rice to eat. Think that's minimal assistance? On November 10, its first day of operation, users on FreeRice.com donated 122,377,240 grains of rice. A month later, over seven billion grains were donated through the users looking to kill time and to improve their vocabulary and a multitude of companies including Apple Inc., American Express, Toshiba and Liz Claiborne.

Traditionally, other companies have used charitable causes as a means of promoting their products. Flip through any magazine, and you might see advertised products marked with "partial proceeds go to charity." Most of the time this partial donation amounts to only five percent of the profit made from that sale. Sometimes, particularly generous food companies such as Newman's Own donates 100 percent of their proceeds to charities, but these are the exceptions.

Though FreeRice.com might, upon first hearing it, seem like another Asian pride website, it is not about promoting "rice is our way of life" at all. Besides providing carbohydrates for hungry people, it explains that its purpose is "improving

your vocabulary [and] improving your life." For each definition you get right, they donate 20 grains of rice through the United Nations all supported by the unobtrusive banner ads at the bottom of the screen.

One might ruminate as to why FreeRice doesn't simply bequeath all its perennial aquatic grass product hitherto and alleviate the world's esurience with greater celerity, while truncating your chronological procession of haplessness.

Why should we waste time improving our vocabulary when we could be getting something more tangible done, like homework or in-person community service? It is better to have users decide the fate of the rice, albeit 20 grains at a time, directly, rather than to have it done in indefinite amounts, by a dollar donation

fee, for instance. By involving the users directly through such process, simple to the point of being mindless, they can still feel as though they are making

a meaningful contribution. But the site should better emphasize exactly what the earned rice is equivalent to, either in measurements of calories, spoonfuls or number of people fed per day. What users might not realize is that the caloric intake of one adult requires about 20,000 grains per day. Still, at its current rate, the amount of rice donated daily could feed 15,000 individuals.

Another new source of charitable contributions online are Facebook's new application modules. One of these applications tracks the amount of money donated

to a variety of cleverly named causes. Users can show off how much they have raised and how many people they have recruited. Another, Greenbook balances out the CO2 created by computer use with funds accumulated to combat global

warming. Greenbook, however, is an even more passive system of generating funds than FreeRice. Is it better for an individual to participate in philanthropy or is this

online activity worth it?

When asked, most of my classmates said that they would rather take the time and effort to donate in person. Most think that in-person volunteering is more sincere. Vincent Duong (II) says, "I prefer donating in person because I think that the best type of volunteering is in-person volunteering. You're giving up your time for a good cause, and that's just one way to show that you really, truly care."

There is also the issue of where your donations will end up. Yan Chen (II) says, "I like to donate in person because I know exactly what my money is going to and I can ask them questions like how much of my donation goes to the actual cause and what their cause is about."

There are, however, always those who stand out from the social norm and prefer donating online. John Grochowski (II) claims that online charity "is a source of payment that is doable. It's easier. It's the knowledge you helped someone without showing it. Basically, helping in the background, in laymen's terms."

Whatever method is preferable because each has beneficial qualities. As long as the Internet remains popular, online charity will become more and more widely utilized by individuals and companies. Thus, supporting a charity, either online or in person, is better than not donating at all. After all, there are far worse ways to spend your time online.



SIXTY GRAINS OF RICE BARELY FILLS A TABLESPOON

BUSINESS

Interview with a BLS Alum

BY PATRICK LI, I
BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

All of us have probably pondered at one point or another during our Boston Latin School lives if it was worth it to work our tails off at this school when we could easily transfer to another and breeze through it. I've heard the question "How could taking four years of Latin possibly benefit us in the future?" at least a dozen times while walking through the hallways. Well, rest assured my BLS peers, I've come up with an answer. I interviewed Mr. Charles Longfield, BLS class of '74, who provided all of the answers that we've been searching for.

Can you describe your current job?
I am currently Chief Scientist for Blackbaud, Inc. Blackbaud provides software and services to small and mid-sized non-profits such as schools, hospitals, museums and religious organizations. For example, the Boston Latin School Association uses Blackbaud's software to track the nearly 20,000 BLS alums.

In January 2007, Blackbaud purchased two companies that I founded in the early 1990's, Target Software and Target Analysis Group. The Target companies work with very large, national and international non-profits such as American Red Cross, Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity.

While my Chief Scientist position

doesn't involve the "hard" sciences like chemistry or physics, I do work in the information sciences developing products which allow non-profits to manage their business better. For example, I recently developed a product that allows regional non-profits to work collaboratively and

when a donor moves. There are more than 100 PBS stations in the country, each with a separate database. This service allows stations to service their members more efficiently.

How was your experience at BLS?

Like most students, I found BLS very difficult. I remember standing at the window after receiving several hours of homework my first day as a sixie and saying "good-bye world". However, I also made great friends who remain friends to this day. And BLS opened up a world to which I would never have had access. My parents did not attend college but wanted me to have that opportunity.

How has graduating from Boston Latin School benefited you in your job?

I'm pretty sure that I would not have gotten into Harvard if I hadn't gone to Latin. Nearly all of my friends in East Boston didn't go to college. Most didn't graduate from high school. And I definitely would not have had the career that I have had, if not for attending college.

What course at BLS benefited you the most in

your career?
My math courses benefited me the most. I had great math teachers who developed my mind to think in a very logical way. I did not do well in English and did not learn how to write well until graduate school. I know BLS does a better job at this today.

In an indirect way, I greatly benefited from my Latin classes. I did not have a very deep vocabulary growing up. Latin taught me the roots of many words and allowed me to do much better on things like the SATs. To this day I remember the word "incarcerate" on my SAT. I did not know the meaning of the word back then but carcer is the Latin word for prison, and one of the SAT options was to put someone in jail. Even I could figure that one out.

Is there any one skill that you've acquired from BLS that you apply to your current job?

Without a doubt, to put your head down and work hard. This skill is lacking in so many workers.

What advice can you give to current BLS students?

BLS students are given a great opportunity—a gift. The school requires a tremendous amount of work but if you are willing to work hard, the rewards are significant; in opportunities, in friends, and in a life-time of experiences.

There you have it folks. For us seniors, our hard work will finally pay off and for you Sixies out there, keep up the hard work, you'll make it...eventually.



CHARLES LONGFIELD IS NOW CHIEF SCIENTIST OF BLACKBAUD

in a more efficient manner. For example, WGBH, the PBS station in Boston, can now electronically transfer a membership to the station in San Francisco (KQED)

Job for a Student

BY MICHAEL CHEN, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jobs for college students fresh off the campus are becoming more and more selective and as more companies are looking for young talent, it's not a bad idea to start considering an occupation before you get out of college. Here are some career options for students:

- 1. Financial Analyst – \$65,000+**
Do you like graphs? [Editor's note: Probably not.] Presentations? Talking about money? Money itself? [Editor's note: Probably yes.] Then being a hedge fund analyst is a great career choice. [Editor's note: Perhaps.] Entry level employees analyze the current market structure and build models and predictions for companies to use. Virtually every corporation needs one, so chances are you'll end up in a company you like.
- 2. Software Engineer / Software Developer – \$45,000 to 80,000 with up to a \$10,000 bonus**
Big names, ranging from Google and Yahoo to EA are looking for talented, young people to design their software. You could be a software designer for, say, the next Halo game or creating another one of Google's innovations that changes the world. If you're one of those rare souls who

happens to be good with computers and are creative, this is your future job.

- 3. Research Associate, Biotech / Pharmaceutical – \$52,000 to 58,000 with a \$1,000 to \$3,000 bonus**
If you thought freshman biology was the best subject in the world and chemistry the most interesting, then this is a career you should consider. Companies like Genentech, Novartis, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson are hiring. And no, you're not going to be working with baby powder. Basically this job entails doing lab research for companies, similar to a science project, except one experiment can last anywhere from weeks to years.
- 4. Accountant – \$45,000 to \$50,000 salary with a \$1,000 to \$3,000 bonus**
Number-crunching is the defining feature of this option, which also involves going through clients' tax reforms and such. Although recent graduates are usually placed in tutorial positions at first, rising through the ranks is relatively easy. Some hiring companies are Deloitte, Ernst & Young and KPMG. If you're good with numbers or enjoy rifling through people's private spending information, keep this job in mind.
- 5. Government Analyst – \$40,000**

- to \$50,000**
Psst! This is top secret. Government analysts are techies who may find themselves testing the capabilities of foreign-made weapons. You can call yourself a spy if you want (but it might get you into lots of trouble). The State Department has these positions open to all non-suspicious persons.
- 6. Junior Consultant/Consulting Analyst – \$55,000 with a \$5,000 sign-on bonus**
Are you interested in business (which presumably is why you're reading this section) or do you wish to become a future Donald Trump? This is a great springboard for the great businessman. Here you'll be talking about your company's clients and mostly about profits and loss. Before you become the next famous entrepreneur, it'd be a safe plan to make some pocket money.
- 7. World Bank Researcher – \$39,000**
This is the kind of work you do if you want to play with the big boys later on. A large network of influential people is at your fingertips. Though it's mostly grunt work—economic forecasts and such—it paves a way to a great graduate school.
- 8. Advertising & Public Relations – \$32,000 to \$50,000**
Love those Super Bowl

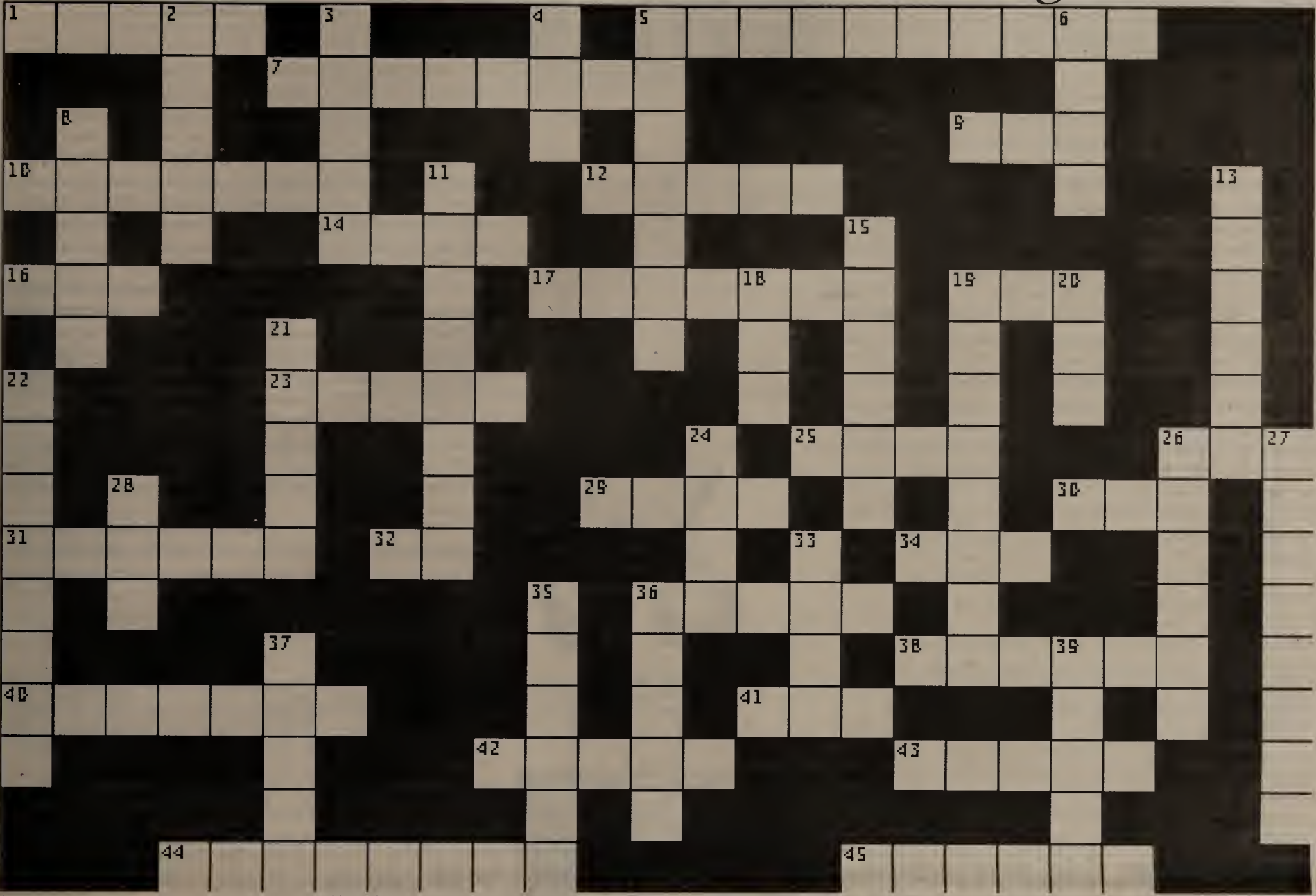
- commercials? Well, why don't you make one yourself? Advertising is the window to a company's image and you're the one who builds that window. Also, direct advertisements and video shoots for client meetings are a necessity. Companies, such as Ketchum and Young & Rubicam, are looking for sharp, smart and funny people.
 - 9. Banking, Sales and Trading Analyst – \$45,000 to \$55,000, up to a \$30,000 bonus**
The stock market is one road to fortune and this job prepares you to take that path. Here, you analyze the world's money flow, market trade and your company's sales. Places like Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, among others, are looking for talented young adults fresh out of college.
 - 10. Teacher – \$26,000 to \$41,000**
Arguably this is the most important job on this whole list, because without teachers, none of the above would be possible. Although you probably won't be rich, it's still pretty honorable if you say that you were the second grade teacher of the President of the United States. We are currently experiencing a shortage of teachers—we want you to Teach for America!
- List compiled from information provided by Forbes Magazine.*

Here Lies The Best Article Ever Written

I cannot convey to you how excited I was to write this article. I had planned a well-researched, provocative, insightful, grandiose, lemon flavored, mind-melting psychological journey of a piece to present to you in this final issue of 2007. Really. I mean, when you read this thing, you would have become a different person; this article was so good, it hurt. But then they decided to cut my (and by my I mean Pat's and my) section down to a page. So, never mind. [My Note: Don't expect to see this article next issue. I deleted it in frustration.]

FUN PAGE

Official Crossword of the *Argo*



- Across
- 1. Popular game among retirement homes
 - 5. Zoroastrian gods
 - 7. This organelle is unique to plant cells
 - 9. What is this good for? Absolutely nothing!
 - 10. He strikes fear into sixties as the Cluster A floormaster
 - 12. Metric unit of length
 - 14. Breakfast food restaurant chain
 - 16. Barbie's significant other
 - 17. Uno, dos, tres, _____!
 - 19. 99 of these balloons, floating in the summer sky
 - 23. Go to room 115 if you are _____
 - 25. This brass instrument is distinctly French
 - 26. Common internet lingo for busy bees
 - 29. The president of this country recently came to speak at Columbia
 - 30. Former leader of Communist China
 - 31. Barrack Obama's eighth cousin
 - 32. This preposition appears in this sentence
 - 34. Color of Republican Party
 - 36. This rock band wears these kind of white
 - 38. Official language of Egypt
 - 40. Capital of Washington
 - 41. A common neck accessory for a baby
 - 42. Connects the orange and blue lines
 - 43. I am a little tea pot, short and this
 - 44. Spiderman, Spiderman does _____ a spider can
 - 45. Charles Dickens wrote a tale of two of these
- Down
- 2. Not Yahoo or Hotmail
 - 3. Coke's Rival
 - 4. Above the 'Caps Lock' key
 - 5. Canadian province
 - 6. Finding Nemo Blue Tang
 - 8. „At Last, singer: Etta _____
 - 11. BLS drill in case of terrorists and bears
 - 13. Super blue muppet
 - 15. Curious George is always with the man in this colored hat
 - 18. This Greek letter appears in the word
 - 19. Grandma got run over by a _____
 - 20. To give, in Spanish
 - 21. Mr. Balicki's honeymoon destination
 - 22. "Conjunction Junction, what's your _____?"
 - 24. Starbucks small
 - 26. Local burrito joint
 - 27. Improv Came Through the _____ Window
 - 28. Last year's hypnotist could bend this object
 - 33. This former hero, Aô's ending was a bit explosive
 - 35. This Arthur character has asthma
 - 36. Lady Lazarus poet
 - 37. String instrument 39. Et tu?

Sudokus

Easy

		5		2		7		
			8		7			5
4			6		5	1		3
					2			
1		2				5		7
			4					
7		1	5		9			2
2			7		8			
		9		1		4		

DIABOLICAL

	9			7			8	
1	7		8		9		2	4
2				8				3
5			6		7			1
7				1				2
9	1		2		4		6	8
	2			3			1	

Expensive Taste

BY NATHANIEL EISEMAN, I
& KIERAN KELLY, I
COPY EDITOR AND A&E EDITOR

When a French child turns 18, her family buys her an Hermès scarf, which usually sell for around \$500. It is not coated in gold, as the price would suggest, but is merely a piece of silk. The family buys the scarf, even if its price nearly bankrupts them, because this is a time when cost is devoid of meaning—this is a gift that the recipient will cherish throughout her life. She will only display the scarf on the most solemn of occasions, for it is too sacred, too steeped in tradition and heritage, to sacrifice to daily wear. This is the scarf that marked the day she became a woman.

We Americans—especially we Boston Latin School students—would never understand. To us, clothes are strictly functional. A \$5 T-shirt is as good as a \$50 one. But you cannot escape the fact that in clothing, the difference between true taste, mediocrity and downright trashiness is often a matter of many thousands of dollars. Take, for example, the man’s suit; I know that many of you own them. I also am pretty certain that a good percentage of you bought your suit at Sears for \$75. I’m going to be perfectly honest: it shows. Why settle for poor craftsmanship and synthetic Chinese fabric when you can look absolutely stunning? The venerable Italian fashion house Kiton offers a suit that will turn eyes without a doubt. They call it the K-50, because, as the story goes, it takes 50 hours of labor to construct. During that time, it passes through the hands of over 45 tailors who assure that the suit is nothing less than the best, conforming to your body’s slightest nuances. People will notice the difference—I promise. And such style, such timelessness, such perfection, can be had for \$50,000 (subject to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates). I’m not going to lie: it’s not exactly inexpensive. But what is money when spent in the pursuit of beauty?

Women, unfortunately, have it much harder when they dress in the *haute couture* style. Chanel’s most exclusive dress designs often range upward of \$400,000. And then there are all the accessories that you must have. Even a modest handbag can set you back a few thousand dollars, and there is really no limit to the price of necklaces, rings and brooches. But shouldn’t such excellence in design, such refinement, such attention to detail be rewarded?

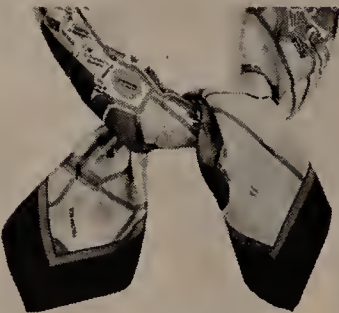
The primary aspect of high style that has struck you the most so far is probably its cost, but if you ever look at a prominent fashion house’s website or even venture into one of its stores, you will notice that there are no prices shown. This is not, as some might think, because if you have to ask, you can’t afford it. It is because the absolute flawlessness of the items sold transcends the very concept of money. You’re no doubt skeptical. “Isn’t fashion just a scam? Isn’t it what’s on the inside that matters?” you’re asking yourself. The answer is “No!” Despite what they taught you in grade school, clothes *do* make the man. If, as the school likes to hope, we end up in the upper echelons of society, and if you take my advice, you will be heir to and experience a newfound respect. For nothing but money—something tangible—the intangible will become yours. Imagine: mobs envious of your impeccable taste, crowds vying for your attention. Trust me, my dear friend: your expenditures will not have been in vain.

When one thinks of the Holidays, one often thinks of Christmas dinner, a cherished time spent with family members. A subject of much ridicule of late is the “turducken,” a chicken inside of a duck inside of a turkey. As delectable as that might seem to the blue-collar individual, a true blue-blood would never eat such a common meal. The true Brahman’s turducken is called a Cowrillpancavgrastruff. This dish features nothing but the finest delicacies, all wrapped into one monstrous roast. At the core of the dish is a sort of stuffing, made from caviar, truffles and foie gras. This is packed to the brim inside of a young panda, which is then encapsulated by a juicy, fresh silverback gorilla. The frosting of this rare meat feast is, of course, an entire Kobe cow. Priced at about 3.8 million dollars (World Wildlife Foundation bribes not included), nothing tastes more unique than the last of a species, and wrapping them all in one is all the better.

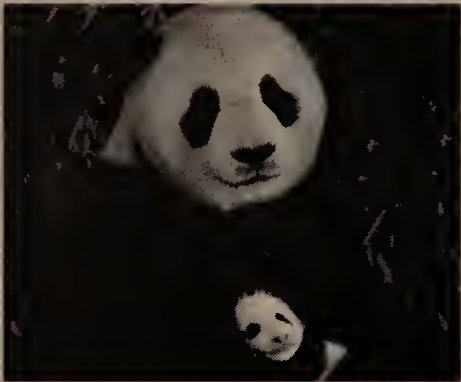
Gifts



COST: \$1.25
TAG LINE: “SO GOOD, SO DISGUSTING”
WARNINGS: AFTERTASTE, ORGAN FAILURE



COST: \$500
TAG LINE: “YOU’RE A WOMAN, NOW LOOK LIKE IT”
WARNINGS: BANKRUPTCY



COST: \$257,000.00; YOUR SOUL
TAG LINE: “SO CUTE, YET SO DELICIOUS”
WARNINGS: DECIMATION OF A SPECIES, INSATIABLE CRAVINGS FOR RARE MEAT



COST: \$4.99
TAG LINE: “ELECTRICITY’S COOL, RIGHT?”
WARNINGS: ELECTRCUTION, CRONIC DEPRESSION

Spare Spending

BY OLIVER ANDERSON, I
A&E EDITOR

I’m going to be honest here. Nathaniel is right. Things that are expensive can often be better than things that are not expensive—which makes some sense. While this is true, I have to pay for car insurance, gas, clothing and an \$1,100 dollar a month coke habit. So when the holiday season rolls around I often have to look for cheaper alternatives for holiday presents. There has been a lot of research done on the benefits of urine. For a couple of quarters you can buy your loved ones a bottle of the most potent fermented urine, an environmentally friendly alternative to cologne.

I also find treasures in Soviet era action toys. These playthings, discarded by a disillusioned populous, are a gold-mine of cheap, on the fly presents. For Christmas, I got my cousin a Gorbachev Action Doll, perfect for subverting the reforms of his GI Joes. Furthermore, nothing will bring a smile to a child’s eye like a pair of Soviet era work boots.

The most versatile gift has got to be an extension cord. Given to a fellow cheapskate, an extension cord is perfect for getting free electricity from a neighbors house. It can also double as a belt or for those whose Christmas doesn’t quite go as planned, a noose.

I have often found myself on the way to a holiday party, still desperately searching for a present that costs less than my train fare. Stepping into a restroom, one can find amazing presents available from vending machines located right by the sinks. Nothing says you’ve got class like a personal-sized package of cologne. For the health conscious, who wouldn’t love the convenience of a sanitary napkin?

When the joy of the holidays needs a kick in the pants, try exotic gifts, from far-off Asian countries. Day-old sushi is often half price—which is definitely a steal. You could, of course, just steal it, as that tends to avoid the whole problem all together.

Do you know any impressionable young kids with a love for trading card games? The Association of Kentucky Evangelicals released *Jesus Christ: The Game*, a collectable card game where you battle evolution for the reckoning. The best part is they give you all the cards for free. All I had to do was go to a retreat at their compound and swear to be a soldier against the infidels. Shopping complete!



COST: NOTHING BUT YOUR UNBREAKABLE WORD
TAG LINE: “REPENT! REPENT! REPENT!”
WARNINGS: DISCONNECT WITH REALITY, HOLY WAR, INGORANCE OF GLOBAL WARMING

Horoscopes

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) I can see the headline now: “Libra Eaten by Neighbors, Reportedly Delicious”

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You will lose some fingers when your parents save money and buy a Michael Vick brand puppy.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Either Santa Claus has started carrying a hunting knife, or that guy who just climbed down your chimney is about to ruin

Christmas.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Judaism will take a turn for the worse when your menorah burns down your house.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The serial pooper will be your secret Santa, but his gift won’t necessarily be from the heart so much as from the butt.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Pour a 40 to the curb, because while Santa was delivering presents

in Compton he was shot to death by rival Crips.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Sure Peace on Earth would be great, but we both know all you really want is an iPhone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That guy in a trench coat has a present for you, at least he was referring to his package.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) This holiday, a loved one will give you the gift that keeps on giving

- herpes.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22) Gain the upper hand by giving a gift no one will expect - locusts.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This holiday you will learn the true meaning of family. You will also learn the true meaning of polygamy.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A family vacation will turn into 15 years hard labor, but we’re going to let the details be a surprise.

Gossip Girl: Never at a Loss for Words

By MARIA WEISSMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

Guilty pleasures—we all have them. Often, they exist in the form of television shows that we’re less than proud of watching. My personal low came the other day when, after flipping through channels, I settled on *Kimora Lee Simmons: Life in the Fab Lane*... and realized I’d already seen the episode that was airing—the one in which she realizes that she can also market her daughters, resulting in her clothing designer being subject to the whims of a seven-year-old and a five-year-old...that’s quality.

Now, I was not an avid reader of the *Gossip Girl* series by Cecily von Ziegesar back in the day, and, thus, when I discovered that it was to be made into a television series, I assumed it would be yet another flaky show that would cause me to feel slightly less intelligent after watching it for an hour. The synopsis, after all, has all the ingredients of a clichéd teen drama, complete with trendy clothing, beautiful cast members and, of course, juicy gossip.

The show is narrated by the all-knowing and unnamed Gossip Girl, who owns a website dedicated to all the gossip concerning New York’s Upper East Side socialites. Blair Waldorf (Leighton Meester) is originally presented as the typical “rich (w)itch” character—a snobby, uptight “Queen Bee” who thrives on her power over others. Her boyfriend, Nate Archibald (Chace Crawford), appears as the whipped boyfriend, torn between loyalty to his girlfriend and true passion for another girl; and with a girlfriend like Blair, who can blame him? This other girl just happens to be the blonde bombshell Serena van der Woodsen (Blake Lively), Blair’s best friend—make that on-again, off-again best friend. The first episode begins with Serena’s sudden return from boarding school and ends with Blair hating her for, inadvertently of course, stealing her spotlight. Blair then discovers that her boyfriend was actually cheating on her with Serena before she left for boarding school.

Nevertheless, the sympathy still lies with Serena because she so readily admits

her guilt. While Serena just wants to make everything right again, Blair tries to hurt her at every attempt. The culmination of her malice occurs in the second episode, “Poison Ivy”: while attending their prep school’s college mixer, Blair outs Serena in front of college admissions officers for having taken the year off to go to rehab for a drug addiction. Except, it was actually Serena’s brother who went to rehab, and he’s there for attempting suicide, not being addicted to drugs. Serena, being the golden girl that she is, never reveals the truth in order to protect her brother.

The first few episodes certainly made it seem like the entire series was to be one full of predictable actions of stock characters—you know, the good friend who causes trouble without meaning to, the malicious friend who makes everything into a bigger deal than it really is, the hot boyfriend torn between two hot best friends. But that is not the case.

Blair discovers that she was completely mistaken about Serena’s “drug addiction” and is, of course, mortified. She rushes to meet Serena, explaining how

hurt and lonely she felt when Serena left for boarding school without saying goodbye; this is justified by saying that her dad left her mom for another man. Curveball, right? The evil girl actually has emotions and a valid reason for being...well, evil.

With every new episode, the characters evolve into increasingly more complex specimens, to the degree that would almost make any Boston Latin School English teacher proud. Each character’s assortment of positive and negative qualities attests that you really can’t “judge a book by its cover.” After all, behind the mistreated Serena lies selfishness. The many other characters exhibit the similar intricacies: the “spoiled jock,” Nate, has mounds of pressure on his shoulders, including troubling family issues that actually make him more troubled than the lonely outsider, Dan (Penn Badgley), who in reality is judgmental. And hey, if you’re not interested in the morals of Gossip Girl or don’t buy my attempt to portray it as a profound work of art, the cast really is ridiculously good looking. That’s always a plus.

Ask the Argo

Dear Argo,

Boston Latin School has taken over my life, what can I do to have more time with friends?

Sincerely,
Need-A-Life

Dear Need-A-Life,

Trying to find a Boston Latin School student who has a life outside of school is like trying to find bacon in the home of a Hasidic Jew. However, we will venture to assume that for some BLS students, namely you Need-A-Life, the kosher life-

style just won’t cut it. So here are some reform options for the unorthodox BLS students—those who actually care about having a life outside of the grind that is Boston Latin School.

Many BLS students struggle to work efficiently. This problem typically stems from a complete and utter misinterpretation of what the Latin School education is about. Some of you, in an attempt to subvert the BLS philosophy on education, actually seek to learn the material you are asked to digest. You eager beavers fail to realize that the BLS education is nothing more than a glorified hazing process, in which students are put through the proverbial meat shredder and emerge as

“responsible and engaged” citizens. Learning severely detracts from this process, so for the impetuous intellectuals out there, quit your ways! Henceforth, the object of your studying should be to memorize the contents you will be tested on and to forget them immediately after your exam is administered. Think of your brain as a blank slate, one that should be erased and refilled periodically.

If history class has taught you anything, which it shouldn’t have, you know that a full-scale revolution is the best and most rational way to solve any problem. Just look back to the discontented rebels of our past and you will find countless examples to emulate. Step one, unite the

proletariat (BLS students) around a common goal. Step two, wrest all the wealth and power from the ruling class (the BLS administration). Step three, let the good times roll. A regime change might loosen the seemingly inextricable chokehold that BLS is currently exerting on your life.

If none of these options appeal to you, you can always transfer to another high school, one that tends not to put your brain in a vice-grip. Many would agree, however, that transferring is reserved for pansies. Happy Holidays, Everyone!

Sincerely,
The Argo

Dear Argo,

My friend has a really, really strong fondness for animals. Not just any animals in specific, he likes horses, and elephants, and dogs, and whales. Anything with a strong, masculine aura. He’s even considering a major in veterinary studies (and a minor in therapeutic massage). He’s done pretty well in his studies so far, but I feel that his frequent trips to local farms and petting zoos has taken time from his schoolwork. I’m afraid that his obsession will jeopardize his chances for valedictorian. What can I do to help?

A-True-Friend

Dear True-Friend,

For students of the Boston Latin School, dreams are commonplace, and life goals are something colleges love to hear about. However, I’m afraid that your friend’s aspirations fall under the category of a “fantasy”. At this point in his life, he should be more open to broader interests. Maybe he’d even enjoy working with people for a change, I’d suggest weaning him into this new lifestyle. Try going with him to the zoos at first, understand his dark desires for the beast. By sharing in his experience you will open

him up to the idea that he can fun with humans too. Eventually you can suggest you have a homosapien-only night, and he will accept this more normal way of socializing.

You may not believe that this can work, but trust me, I speak from experience. I, too, had a friend who was enthralled with his pet bird. He spent all his time obsessing over new cages, special diet grains, and digital recording meant to make the bird feel at home in the wild. He reached a point where I barely saw him, but eventually the bird died, and I was there to console him. So I guess what I’m saying is that you have to kill the

thing he loves most, that is the only way to be a true friend.

Life is full of surprises. Sometimes our closest friends are obsessed with animal companions, in ways that defy both social standards and biological realities. We have to make sacrifices, and if those sacrifices are at other people’s expense, that’s all the better. Good luck, and remember, PETA has started prosecuting, so make sure it looks like an accident.

Good hunting,
The Argo

<p>HAPPY HOLIDAYS! -THE PINK</p>	<p>I LOVE SNOW</p>	<p>“Don’t stop believing.” -Jason Huang</p>
<p>Selina and Vy almost died in a snowbank... for the <i>ARGO</i></p>	<p>IZZO RULES</p>	<p>Happy Holidays!!! —The Argo</p>

Spotlight
Tim Colby



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM

BY KIERAN KELLY, I
A&E EDITOR

The lights dim. A few shadows line up on the stage and you hear a single harmonizing note. Suddenly, a powerful yet gentle voice pierces the silence and girls begin to scream. Tim Colby has entered the building.

I met Tim in seventh grade. We both had buzzcuts back then, and while my hairstyle has changed and we're both a bit taller, one thing that's stayed the same is Tim's character. One of the friendliest guys around, he's always there for anyone who needs a hand, and only God and Verizon Wireless could count the time we've spent talking.

Tim is known for his singing with the Wolftones, but he has a long history in the arts. When he was younger, he was an avid tap dancer and played the piano. And when he entered the school, he took up the clarinet. As if his musical brilliance wasn't enough, Tim is quite the sportsman, too. He loves to swim and has been skiing since the age of one. Tim also runs track and has played soccer for Boston Latin. You can sometimes see him after school combining two of his passions as he and a few fellow sprinters sing while jogging. On occasion, he even makes us play croquet in his backyard. Well, he tries at least.

Though charming, sincere and outgoing, Tim is not without his quirks. Though he hates coffee, he loves Starbucks. He has a strange fascination with pocket watches and I think he secretly enjoys being asked the time. Tim's favorite movie is *Lawrence of Arabia*, but try to watch it with him and you'll probably be out of luck, because he's got a firm policy of not watching it more than once a year because he's afraid he'll grow tired of it. While he only sees it about as often as he sees the doctor, Tim's favorite quote comes from the movie, and it's something he holds dear to his heart. "Nothing is written," Lawrence says, and Tim holds fast to the idea that you are in control of your future.

Tim's victory in Prize Declamation last year is something known to many, but what few realize is that he is only one of two juniors to have experienced such a victory in at least a decade. His love for public speaking was apparent to me from as early as the 8th grade, when Tim, Sam Dang and I put on a radio play in theatre class called "Chaz Grows Up." The play told the heartwrenching story of a young British boy who yearned to join a gang led by Tim's character and we found ourselves putting on vignettes of our performance between classes.

Tim was shy when I first met him, but he's since grown more comfortable with himself, whether he's talking to a person in the hallway or to hundreds on stage. But he's no less humble. You don't have to take my word for it; just go out and talk to him. If you need a reason, just ask him about the Korean story.

A & E Cafe Vittoria

BY ELIZABETH ZAPPALA, II
& STEPHANIE RUFO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Looking for an Italian kick to a quick coffee and pastry? Go no further than the Caffe Vittoria. Established in 1929, it was the first Italian café in Boston, and has become a hotspot for locals and tourists alike. Upon entering the café, you are immediately entranced by the old-world charm and its vintage interior. From the crisp marble tables to the silver and black chairs, the café shows its class and polished style. Caffe Vittoria is covered with praise and awards from Best of Boston to AOL.com, along with classic Italian posters and festive decorations, making it the perfect atmosphere for the holidays. The menu, almost entirely in Italian, may seem overwhelming at first, but with the help of the patient service, one can easily select the perfect treat. From classic Italian pastries to a variety of hot drinks, the elegance of the dishes themselves initiates the sumptuous taste. A few suggestions would be the caffè mocha, perfect for

you coffee lovers wanting to satisfy your sweet tooth, and the cioccolatto caldo, a creamy mix of chocolate and frothy goodness. As for desserts, we suggest the napoletane, a scrumptious pastry equally flaky and creamy, and the classic cannoli. You can't go wrong with that. Gelato is also an option with variations in many flavors. Sitting and enjoying our conversation, we observed the lively atmosphere of the North End. This is a place where you can sit for hours relaxing or simply stop in for a bite. Although the menu does not present prices, which was somewhat frustrating, everything was between \$3 and \$4. Indulge yourself in its true Italian finishing and envision yourself



CREAMY CUPS OF CAFFEINATED GOODNESS

ELIZABETH ZAPPALA (II) & STEPHANIE RUFO (II)

in a romantic café in Bella Italia.

GPA: 3.7
A SHOE IN FOR BC

Modern Pastry

BY PATRICK HITCHINS, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From the large painted sign to the crowds standing outside, one might think that Modern Pastry is merely another of the North End's tourist traps. It is popular among tourists, but unlike similar North End establishments, its popularity is backed by true quality. And it's well-received by Massachusetts natives as well.

As you enter the café, you do not experience an overwhelming feeling of immersion in an Old World Italian atmosphere as you might at other North End pastry shops. Rather, a clean, bright candy shop-like scene lies before you. On your left, there are mounds of candy, cases of cannolis and a warm, friendly, good looking staff ready to serve you. On your right, are modern designer tables and chairs—and satisfied customers.

Modern Pastry is especially famous for its ricotta pies and cannolis. People from all over Boston and even the suburbs frequent Modern for these delectables, which juxtapose a crunchy pastry shell with ultra sweet and heavy filling. Nothing can compare with a cannoli and a cup of coffee or hot chocolate on a cold winter day. My personal favorite is the fruit tart. It's an

amazing concoction of sweet and tart fruit, strawberries, blueberries and even the elusive kiwi abound, all combine in a sweet gelatin and a flaky crust. After a heavy meal at one of the North End's delicious restaurants or even just a quick snack with friends, one of these pastries

of joe, we rarely get to appreciate coffee as it is meant to be made—by acrimonious baristas who don't care whether you live or die, but really knows how to use an espresso machine. At Modern Pastry they definitely don't care whether you crack your head open on the pavement, but they made a very strong and tasty cappuccino. I definitely couldn't get a cannoli to slide down my throat without a hot cappuccino to wash it down.

You can grab all this to go, wrapped up tight in a box, ready to be brought to a party or eaten alone in the dark. You can also grab a seat (if you're lucky) in the store itself. The staff usually keeps the tables clean, and it's a perfect place to get off your feet and watch customers greedily order their own selection of sweets. The last time I was there, the crowds seemed to overwhelm the skeleton crew that was present and my table was covered with crumbs and ricotta, but the server was apologetic, and there had been a one-armed man at the table before me. Sec, even the disabled love a delicious cannoli. So, I'd highly recommend heading down to Modern Pastry and wrapping your hand—or claw—around some delicious desserts.



A FAMOUS SCENE ON HANOVER STREET

WWW.GOOGLE.COM

is just what the doctor ordered.

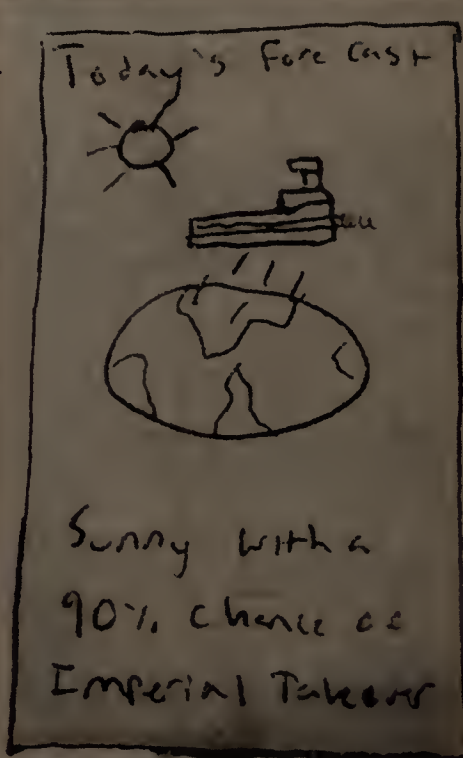
Being an Italian establishment, Modern offers a solid selection of caffeinated drinks. I think that we're disillusioned to think that Starbucks is the pinnacle of coffee vending, and while I don't disagree that the 'bucks deals a good cup

THANKS TO JASON WHO IS AMAZING
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SLEPT ON MY FLOOR
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATE ALL THOSE BANANAS
THANKS FOR DOING WAAAYY TOO MUCH WORK
NOW GET OUT OF MY HOUSE.
--OLIVER

Thank You
Superintendent
for the
SNOW DAY

STOP
STUDYING
SAT, PAT

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A & E

Columbinus Trashed; Cratchit Goes on Binge

By **ANDY VO, IV**
EDITORIAL BOARD ASSOCIATE

As the *Argo* reported last issue, the Boston Latin School's original fall play, *Columbinus*, was cancelled by the administration. It was then replaced with the new production, *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, a comedy including parodies of *A Christmas Carol*, *Oliver Twist* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

When the cast was first informed that *Columbinus* was going to be cancelled, there was a large uproar. The cast felt that it was unjustly terminated, and Ms. Christa Crewdson rushed to find a new play. Somehow, with half the usual time to prepare, the cast would have to accept their loss and continue on with the new play. The main concern was to prove to the administration that the cast could still pull off a great show, no matter what. Of course, this was easier said than done.

The actors were looking forward to doing a strong, meaningful drama like *Columbinus* and were, in a way, forced to do another play. Some people were angry at the administration while others were just worried about successfully putting on a play. Either way, time held great consequence for the production. A month of preparing and learning lines for *Columbinus* was now useless, and there were only two months left for *Mrs. Cratchit*. Much of that time was used to let go of the grudge of not being able to do the drama. Korey McIsaac (I) said, "Once *Columbinus* was done, there was despair and anger. But

we're a professional theater and more going on with *Columbinus* would take away time from this play."

As the "despair and anger" went away, the actors really showed their professionalism in learning their lines, learning their cues, and, most importantly, forgetting about *Columbinus*.

So what is *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* even about? The Ghost of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come visit Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge to make him repent for his deeds. Of course, the Ghost is a bit incompetent and keeps going to the wrong places. Mr. Bob Cratchit's family is still poor, but Mrs. Bob Cratchit seems to be in the wrong century, hating everybody—especially her family. She continually tries to commit suicide throughout the play and believes herself to be crazy because she is able to hear the Ghost and Scrooge in her head. Eventually, Mrs. Cratchit sees what her family's life would be like if she was never alive; she realizes they are better off without her, and gets married to Scrooge in the right century, specifically the year 1977.

In this writer's opinion, the best show was on Friday, 3 PM having the best audience and 7 PM having the best acting. Of course, my opinion is a bit limited. Most of my time was spent in the chorus

room, playing Hangman during the breaks between my scenes and duties changing

the set. Still, from what the cast has told me and from what I saw firsthand, the play ran professionally. It also ran smoothly (or at least as smooth as possible), judging from the quick extemporane-

ous lines made when a flat fell in the middle of the Saturday show.

Ms. Crewdson, who has lost much sleep as it is, said (pre-show), "It wasn't until about Monday that I was convinced that we could pull it off, and the only setback was that we didn't have enough time to do cast bonding or warm-ups." Although only two days were available in between Monday and Thursday (the date of the actual show), much of the experimentation with lines occurred during the play itself. Post-show, Ms. Crewdson felt the play was great and that the cast worked to pull it off as professionally as possible. She didn't even bother mentioning the setbacks again. Nobody in the audience could tell that there were any. As for me? I felt that *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* was a great play to put on and that the cast definitely bonded, if only during Hangman.



ALZHEIMER'S LOOKS ADORABLE

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Spotlight Marlee Fischer



By **MOLLY GOODKIND, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My goal for this spotlight is to write it without using a single cliché. That can be hard considering the nature of a spotlight, but there's no one I'd rather try it for than Marlee Fischer. Because let's face it, Marlee is anything but cliché. Let's just start with her name: honestly, have you ever met another human being named Marlee? From the time Marlee hunted me down and forced me to be friends with her in ninth grade, this name has introduced a certain level of inconvenience into my life. (It's really difficult to tell which one of us is being addressed, especially when the speaker has any form of Boston accent.) Still, I would have to admit that overall it's been worth it. I would even go so far as to say that she has been one of the single biggest contributors to my laughter since the time I met her.

Many of you probably know Marlee as the girl who recently broke it down in a pep-rally dance battle against Johnny B. That enthusiastic krumping is just the kind of behavior I've come to expect from her over the years. When Marlee decides to grace the world with a performance—whether it be at a late-night dance party in my kitchen or our early-morning ballet class—she refuses to showcase anything less than her maximum level of energy (moves so fast they're blurry and so powerful the floor shakes), although this often leads to consequences such as severe groin pain. Marlee's creative talent encompasses not only dance, but musical performance as well. I will always remember hanging out in someone's living room while Stephen O'Connell begged over and over again, "Please, sing it just one more time," as Marlee gave us a special preview of the latest Wolfettes song. This year Marlee has done a great job leading the legendary all-female a cappella group, and before that she spent several years exercising her amazing voice in Chorus.

The shocking part is that I haven't even mentioned the thing which truly makes Marlee a child prodigy, the thing which makes me wonder if she was created in a lab just to make the rest of us feel bad about our lack of creative skill: Marlee is also an incredible violinist. She's been playing in the orchestra at school for a couple of years now, and in orchestras outside of school for many years before that. Sometimes with all her artistic accomplishments it's easy to forget that Marlee also maintains astonishing grades at one of the most difficult schools in the country, and even more important, is simply a likable person. She knows how to be funny when you need a laugh, serious when you need advice, and quiet when you just need someone to listen. I feel lucky to have found such an amazing friend who also doubles as a walking talent show in case I ever get bored. So in conclusion, Marlee Fischer may appear to be just like any other raven-haired beauty, but she is a prime example of the fact that you can't judge a book by its cover. Sorry, I just couldn't resist one cliché.

A Movie to See Before You Die

By **HUNTER BAUM, I**
STAFF WRITER

It has come to my attention that Hollywood must clearly be out of ideas: *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, re-doing *Rambo* with Sylvester Stallone playing Rambo...again, etc.. So I have come up with a guide for the person who doesn't want to see these less-than-mediocre films in the theatres—and wants to watch a really good movie. This is my guide to Movies You Must See Before You Die.

The first movie on our epic journey through time is *The Shawshank Redemption*, starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman and directed by Frank Darabont. *The Shawshank Redemption* is based on Stephen King's novella *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*. This is without a doubt one of my all-time favorite movies. It was nominated

for seven Oscars (Best Picture, Best Actor (Morgan Freeman), Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Original Score, and Best Sound), but didn't win a single one due to the release of blockbuster *Forrest Gump* in the same year. While *Forrest Gump* is a sensational movie, and also one you should probably see before you die, *The Shawshank Redemption* is a better movie and deserved some Oscar love from the academy.

The story is about Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins), a banker who is wrongly accused of murdering his wife and her lover. He is damned with a double life sentence in the tough Shawshank Prison. Once there, he witnesses the brutal, cold murder of a fellow inmate by the guards. So begins his life in prison. He eventually meets and befriends Ellis "Red" Redding (Morgan Freeman), who is the prison's

"man who knows how to get things." Later, after several plot-spoiling stories happen, Andy uses his banking expertise to help the guards and the warden with their finances. He even goes so far as to help the warden launder some funds. Without revealing the rest of the plot, I will tell you that every sub-plot is given great detail and attention, every part extraordinary.

At first, I was skeptical when I was told to watch this film; needless to say, I was entranced from beginning to end. This is without a doubt, in my mind, Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins' best acting. The musical score was both moving and haunting, and the camera work was spectacular. I do not have enough praise to give to this movie. It is a movie that leaves a lasting impression, and those are the movies that you will remember always and those are the best.

Nothing to Atone For

By **EMILY CIRILLO, III**
STAFF WRITER

Atonement came out amidst a flurry of good reviews since its premiere at the Venice Film Festival in August. The film is divided into four acts. The perspective switches from that of the young lovers Robbie Turner (James McAvoy) and Cecilia Tallis (Keira Knightly) to Cecilia's younger sister Briony (played brilliantly by the young actress Saoirse Ronan and later as Romola Garai and Vanessa Redgrave). The characters are all very confused and only the audience sees the entire story.




The first act of the film takes place on a hot summer day in 1935 England. Briony, only thirteen at this time, has a very big imagination. While looking out the window she sees her sister diving in a large fountain with Robbie looking on.

Not knowing what she witnessed, Briony starts to think that Robbie, whom she considers a friend and someone who she has a bit of a crush on, is a horrible person. Later that evening a terrible crime is committed against Briony's young cousin and, not knowing what to think, Briony falsely accuses Robbie of committing it. Robbie is taken away to jail, separating the two lovers, changing Robbie and Cecilia's lives forever. Briony spends the rest of her life regretting what she did and trying to atone for her mistakes.

Act two begins four years later when Robbie is fighting in World War II. Before shipping out, he sees Cecilia, who is now a doctor working in London. They promise to wait for each other and to see each other again. Robbie is in France waiting to return to England during the Dunkirk evacuation. In these scenes, the director Joe Wright does not hold back

anything regarding the grittiness of war. He shows scenes of a field full of dead school children and another scene when soldiers kill horses, the entire theater including myself gasped when we saw this. By the end of Robbie's point of view, the viewer is uncertain of his fate.

Everything about this film seemed flawless. The acting was superb, especially from James McAvoy, who might be a serious contender for an Oscar nomination. Joe Wright did an amazing job directing the film, his work made the audience feel exactly what all the characters were going through. But the biggest contributor of all was Seamus McGarvey, the cinematographer. McGarvey's creativity gave us a clear picture of what life was in Europe before and during World War II. This is a film that is truly a modern masterpiece and should not be forgotten during the Oscars and years to come.




<div>Guangyi Huang</div> <div></div>	<div></div>	<div>Susan Wang</div> <div></div>	<div>Physics Students-</div> <div>Have a relaxing and safe vacation, and watch for unexpectedly low coefficients of friction!</div> <div>-Mr. Southwick</div>
<div>Buy a holiday gift bear from the business society!</div> <div>\$5.00</div>	<div>BLS Business Society</div> <div>wishes everyone a</div> <div>Merry Christmas!</div>	<div>SAVE THE DATE!</div> <div>BLS YouthCANs 2nd Annual Global Warming Youth Summit at MIT will be on Saturday May 10th! For more info go to www.blsyouthcan.org</div>	<div>Get involved in a club that is actually making a difference BLS YouthCAN is winning prizes and fighting global warming. Lend your efforts! Looks great on Resume! Meetings Mondays in 025.</div>

Hey... Philip... how's Kathie? LOL

How's the magnet Phili, still working?

PHILIP + HELENA = FOREVER

HOW ARE THE HANDS PHILIP?

<div>For lack of a better gift...</div> <div>MERRY CHRISTMAS</div> <div>-MYES MCDONOUGH</div>	<div>Santa Clause is Coming to Town</div>	<div>$M_1 + M_2 + V_3 = U_N$ M. I. D. M I C I INCOGNITO!!!!</div> <div></div>	<div>Sup Homie! B.H.K.O</div> <div></div>
<div>DMA! DMA! DMA!</div>	<div>Greetings from the Wannika tribe. love Elk chasing lark Eagle Mocasins</div>	<div>Brian Whittemore still likes you, Maria</div> <div>(617-816-7452)</div>	<div>HARRY DELEN <3</div>
<div>Roxenna +Reyes-Serí, I</div>	<div>busco alguien que me quiera por siempre que me acepte en realidad como soy</div> <div></div>	<div>Libraries rock!</div>	<div>Helen Made Me Buy This</div>

<div>Nathaniel Eiseman</div>	<div>Mr. Wetherby is the modern day Archimedes.</div> <div>Your favorite AP Calculus stdents, Jessica, Roxenna, and Nathaniel</div>
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Thank you to the Banks and Anderson families for their generous hospitality during Final Thursday and the donation of computers and, perhaps most importantly, coffee.

-Kieran Kelly & the rest of the *Argo*.

SPORTS

New Feature Explanation

SPORTS TALK: In order to promote the connection between writer and reader, Sports is introducing a new feature called “Sports Talk.” From this issue forward, the Sports Editors will be accepting opinionated responses to any article published in the previous issue of the *Argo*. If you find yourself shaking your head in disgust or nodding in agreement as you read any of our articles, tell us about it! Write a response no longer than 150 words and send it to blsargo.sports@gmail.com -- anonymously or proudly bearing your name--and you may find your own opinion in the *Argo*! Three responses will be chosen each issue based upon persuasiveness, composition, and originality. So stop thinking about it and TALK about it!

Deadline for responses to Issue III: January 14th

Give Bonds a Break!

BY RENE REYES, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anytime I hear or see the name Barry Bonds on TV or in a newspaper article, a lot of things come to mind: another athlete who is full of himself, a jerk to the media, an adulterer, but, most importantly, a cheat who now holds the most hallowed record in all of sports. After hearing that Bonds was indicted for perjury and obstruction of justice on November 15 for telling a federal grand jury that he didn't knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs, I added the word “liar” to my personal list of words to describe him. This indictment charged Bonds with four counts of perjury and one of obstruction of justice, and if convicted, he could be sentenced to a maximum of 30 years in prison. But this indictment, in my opinion, is just plain wrong and unfair!

There is only one way to view this indictment, and that is the terrible injustice and devastating blow to the in-

tegrity of our federal government. Why is the government pursuing a man who for the most part committed a crime against himself and his legacy? Why are they after a man who was just a client of BALCO and not the man who created BALCO or distributed those performance-enhancing drugs? Bonds is even facing stricter punishment and scrutiny than Victor Conte, the man who is truly responsible for this entire steroid operation. I don't condone Bonds for lying to the government, but I also don't support the government for spending \$6 million to ruin a man who isn't the only player to have used performance-enhancing drugs (Jason Giambi), to have lied to the federal government (Rafael Palmeiro) or to have refused to talk about the past (Mark McGwire). Shouldn't the government be using that money to catch Osama bin Laden or to improve our national security? The government is just trying to find a posterboy or scapegoat for this decade's whole steroid investigation, and

Bonds just happens to fit the criteria. I believe that Bonds's race is yet another reason why he is even involved in this whole predicament.

Rafael Palmeiro, an exclusive member of the 500-homerun club and the 3,000 hits club, also lied to the federal government at the congressional hearing about the usage of steroids in baseball in 2005 by saying, “Let me start by telling you this: I have never used steroids, period. I don't know how to say it anymore clearly than that. Never.” But on August 1, 2005, he was suspended by MLB for testing positive for steroids. Why didn't the government seek perjury charges against Palmeiro? And then there is Mark McGwire, the once holder of the single season homerun record. Why didn't the government chase the past that Mark McGwire wasn't eager to talk about at the congressional hearing? Why is it only after Bonds, who just happens to be a black athlete?

Most sports fans believe that

Bonds's indictment is his punishment for taking steroids, lying to the government and breaking Aaron's homerun record by cheating. Putting Bonds in prison, however, isn't the solution. In my opinion, there are only two ways out of this whole Bonds mess without putting him in the can. Solution one would be putting an asterisk on Bonds's single season record of 73 homeruns and his all-time record of 762 homers. Solution two would be just waiting a couple of years for Alex Rodriguez, the best player in Major League Baseball in the minds of most baseball fans, to break Bonds's “tainted” all-time homerun record. Making Bonds live with the fact that asterisks have been placed next to his name in the record books or that his records have been broken is justice well deserved for his wrongdoings. Why should Barry Bonds be put in jail for taking steroids and denying he took them, something that athletes have done in the past, doing in the present and will continue to do in the future?

The Annual Failure of the BCS Continues

BY SANCHAY JAIN, III
STAFF WRITER

The Bowl Championship Series is the most complicated system in all of sports; computers, journalists, and coaches have their say in deciding rankings week in and week out, but the scenario got even more confusing with the amount of incredible upsets this season. Perhaps the most shocking came when Oklahoma defeated Missouri. When the dust settled, the team that ranked number one at the start of the BCS polling, Ohio State, ended up as the first seed again, and is back in the championship game for the second year in a row.

In the first BCS poll of this year, Ohio State University and South Florida University were in the top two positions, with Boston College a close number three—all being undefeated. One week later, South Florida lost, and the hometown Boston College Eagles were vaulted into second place, just behind Ohio State.

The Eagles held onto their ranking for another week, pulling out a classic last minute victory over Virginia Tech. However, BC lost to Florida State and Maryland in back-to-back games, taking them out of the picture. Louisiana State then became number two, again behind the Buckeyes, until they were upset by Illinois. This brought the Tigers to the top and Oregon number two, but they immediately were upset. Undefeated Kansas then took the Ducks' spot. At this point, Ohio State's season had ended, leaving them at 11-1.

The next week, Darren McFadden solidified his case to be the top pick in next year's NFL draft by leading the Arkansas Razorbacks to a triple overtime thriller over #1 LSU. Meanwhile, Kansas also fell, this time to #4 arch-rival Missouri. At this point, Missouri and Big East powerhouse West Virginia had become the two national championship opponents, and seemed like sure things.

But then Missouri fell to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship game, while

the Mountaineers were brought down by lowly Pitt. The loss for Missouri inexplicably kicked them out of the BCS scene. In the end, Ohio State, thanks to its two week layoff, managed to jump ahead of everyone and into the number one spot, and LSU, the SEC champs, took home the second spot. I'm taking LSU to win this game, as they look to prove to the nation that they belong in this position. With Les Miles having signed an extension to remain coach, look for them to focus in and become the second SEC team to knock off Ohio State in the past two years.

My other BCS Bowl picks:

- Championship
 - Louisiana State University def. Ohio State University
- Rose Bowl
 - University of Southern California def. Illinois
- Sugar Bowl
 - Georgia def. Hawaii
- Fiesta Bowl
 - West Virginia def. Oklahoma
- Orange Bowl
 - Virginia Tech def. Kansas

An important bowl game for Boston is the Champs Sports Bowl, where BC looks to knock off Michigan State, and will probably do so easily. Somehow, they were dropped to this bowl behind Clemson and Virginia, despite having a better record, and having beaten Clemson. They bounced back strong from their brief slide, but will have a huge hole to fill with the departure of senior quarterback Matt Ryan, who looks to be a first round NFL draft pick.

Finally, we end with the Heisman Trophy race. Florida QB Tim Tebow, who set records for rushing TDs and total TDs, became the first sophomore in 70 years to win the trophy, edging out McFadden and Brennan by a considerable margin. Perhaps, this decision was the easiest in another season overwhelmed by the BCS controversy.

Boys' Hockey: “Playtime's Over”

BY LAUREN ANDERSON, II
STAFF WRITER

Some of the most outstanding athletes at Boston Latin are products of our school's very competitive hockey team. Even under the leadership of Coach Frank Woods and Assistant Coaches Bill Hubbard and Stephen O'Leary, the true leaders on the team are the captains, Ryan Byrne (II) and Joe Davoren (I) and David Pollard (I). According to Captain Byrne, “This season we expect to win our league, to win our Christmas tourney and to compete in states. To do this, we must really compete throughout the season.” With a team predominantly composed of juniors, this is a very attainable goal. The nine juniors on this team have a strong bond, which stems

from many years playing together. According to Brian “Playtime's Over” Gora, “I think based on what I have seen in our two scrimmages versus Canton (loss 2-1) and Dedham (win 4-1), we definitely have a chance to compete.”

A chance to compete may be all the team needs. The team finished last season with a dismal record, 3-13-4, 10 points away from the necessary 20 points needed to make the states. This season there is a new air about the team, one that may carry the boys all the way to a state championship. Although the team is full of juniors, they are not the only ones to keep an eye on. This season the team has two very young additions, Kevin Cotrone (V) and Conal Lynch (V).

Though they are hoping for a cham-

pionship this year, they know that there are elements of the game that must be improved on. According to Jimmy Doogan (II), “We really need to get the biscuit in the basket more often than we did last season.” Sophomore Justin Evangelista added, “We really need to compete in every game and to come together as a team. I am predicting a decent season, definitely better than .500.”

The team also hopes to step up its game physically, attacking the body of the opponent. “Hopefully by working hard at practices we will be one of the best conditioned teams and we will leave our Wolfpack paw prints all over our opponents,” boasts Evan Picariello (II).

This season's schedule is looking very manageable for the Wolfpack. The

team has the right amount of confidence balanced by humility, which is understood, being the most underrated team in the DCL. But in the end, they are not setting themselves, or the Boston Latin athletic community, up for failure. They know that they have must-win games against tough, physical, well-practiced teams.

Moreover, this season is looking positive for the boys. With the right combination of hard work, heart, team work and determination, it is almost guaranteed that the hockey team will bring Latin School more than a disappointing three-win season. Regardless of the outcome, they could benefit from the school's support. It may only require the cheers the of BLS Superfans to bring the state title to Boston Latin; we miss it after three years.

Spotlight

Kathleen Roche



BY ANN-MARIE ELVIN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I hear the number 16 uttered in any context, the first thing that registers in my mind is number 16 – Kathleen Roche. Ever since her grandfather inspired her choice of number upon her young start, the number and the person have been one in the same.

You'd never hear it from her, but "Rochie" epitomizes exactly what it means to be a student athlete. Take softball, for example. An impact player on varsity as a freshman, she went on to record the highest batting average and home run totals on the Wolfpack as a sophomore. But the Spring is not her only season. Since freshman year, Roche has laced up her cleats for the Latin Soccer program each September. She has made an impact on all sides of the field, literally, as her versatility as a player has caused her to be put in every possible position at one time or another.

However, it is away from the field in which Roche's talents are most recognized. Ever since that fateful morning at learn-to-skate in which she wandered to the opposite end of the rink where the beginner hockey players were being instructed, Roche has been on skates. When I first met her playing on the Parkway Girls Hockey team aptly coached by our two fathers, it was evident that she had immeasurable talent. She continued to exhibit her skills on the ice, soon earning a starting spot on the Varsity team at school as a sixie. An All-Scholastic, she has made an invaluable contribution to the team, evidenced by the fact that she is always atop the Dual County League in scoring. This year, as a captain, she has her mind set on winning a state title before she moves on next year, planning to bring her talents to Salve Regina.

As one would imagine, Kathleen Roche is an extremely accomplished athlete and student, but in truth these qualities are not representative of who she really is. It is the little things which allow her to be more than just another face in the crowd. Despite her history of hat tricks, assists, and even one four goal game on record, the numerous accolades of her career are not what define "Rochie." It is her pre-game motivational speeches, her inspirational quotes, her hilarious jokes, her *secret missions* before home games, and her uncanny ability to relate to those around her which corroborate the fact that this is no common individual. Described by teammates as a "true leader," and by friends as "fun to be around," and "genuine," Kathleen Roche has definitely made an impression on everyone she has come into contact with. And, as she goes out into the world next year, we will all be cheering, reiterating the chants of her father, Paul Roche: "Let's Go Rochie."

SPORTS

Should BLS Be in the DCL?

YES



BLS FOOTBALL TEAM BATTLES DCL OPPONENT

NO

BY ALAN CIRCEO, I
STAFF WRITER

Boston Latin School athletics compete in the Dual County League (DCL). And they should, too. The Dual County League is one of the best athletic leagues in the MIAA. Now while this certainly has put us at a disadvantage in some sports, like football, in others we compete and win year in and year out. Each sport has their ups and downs, but none have performed badly enough to warrant our withdrawal from the Dual County League (yes, even football).

Let us all remember our own boys' basketball team last year. They were Dual County League co-champions along with Concord-Carlisle. Why would we withdraw from the DCL, a league in which we just won a championship, and are in great shape to repeat as Dual County champions again this season? Basketball is not the only sport to have recent success in the DCL. Varsity baseball, until last year, had made the state tournament for several consecutive years. This berth in the tournament is gained by achieving a .500 record or above, or at least a season in which you win at least as many games as you lose. While last year was a down year for baseball, the 2008 season looks bright for our nine, and the team is looking forward to another state tournament berth this year. Our girls' teams do well in the DCL too. Girls hockey cruised to another conference title last year and cheerleading, just recently, placed third in the DCL competition. This marks the very first time that our cheerleaders placed in a Dual County tournament, and next year they plan on placing in the competition again, and this time securing a silver or even gold medal. Even football has historically competed in the Dual County League, regardless of our less than stellar 2006 and 2007 records. While varsity football hasn't won a Dual County League game since the 2005 season, this seems to be only a recent phenomenon. Our football team won the DCL twice in the 1980s, and had gone .500 or higher in several of the seasons in the '90s and even early 2000s.

Boston Latin left the Boston City League (BCL) in 1976 and joined the Dual County League as an official member in 1981 due to a decline in competition in the BCL. Between 1982 and 2003, our sports teams won 39 Dual County League championships, and have won seven state championships. Latin has also had hundreds and hundreds of DCL all-stars over the years, 44 of them in the 2003-2004 seasons alone, a year in which we also won three separate DCL championships. A run of over forty championships in a league over 28 years is not bad at all. Certainly not something that would demand a departure from the league.

Additionally, the member schools of the DCL are much closer to Boston Latin than our former league-mates in the Boston City League. All the high schools have graduation rates much higher than the Boston Public School's average, and their college and university matriculation rates are much closer to our 99% than the schools in the City League. In fact, Weston High School, another DCL team, was ranked 60th in the US News and World Report's Top 100 Gold Medal Winners for American public high schools. We all know we made this list at 19th, and it's good to know that we play some teams from schools that also place such a high premium on education and academics. We will continue to compete and win in the Dual County League for years yet to come. Our own Athletic Director, Coach John McDonough put it best in a BLS Association Varsity Club e-newsletter from September 2004, "Despite the obstacles, our athletic teams do quite well. They work just as hard and are just as dedicated as ever, and the indomitable Latin School spirit is alive and well. Athletic participation is at an all-time high and our Dual County League rivals have raised the bar and we will respond. Sumus Primi!"

BY MARSHALL CALDERA, II
STAFF WRITER

As a transfer from Boston Latin Academy coming to such an esteemed and historical high school, I can tell you firsthand how easy it is to get the wrong impression of Boston Latin School's athletic department. In the city league, success is not hard to come by for the Latin Academy Dragons, playing against less talented public schools. Meanwhile, the news and results about most of Boston Latin's sports teams revolve around how we got slaughtered by one of the numerous Dual County League powerhouses. Switching back would not only spare us from the undeserved embarrassment, but also gain a renewed sense of confidence after wiping the floor with all the city teams.

When we joined the DCL in the beginning of the 1980s, confidence was high as we had been the perennial powerhouse of our former division. This new league would give us a legitimate affiliation, and our players could now receive accolades. Also fitting was the DCL schools, who, like our faculty, thrive for strong academics. Understandably, a new and better league meant that success would not come early on (though the football team did win a couple DCL championships). But here we are, 26 years later, and we still find ourselves struggling to accomplish much, with Wolfpack football team ironically now headlining these frustrations. Maybe we had it coming, maybe we overestimated our talent, but looking at the other teams we play, it is easy to see why we are out-classed by them.

Our league-mates just simply have more resources. They have better funding and facilities, which help in their preparation and ability. Instead of having to split time in the gym, they can just use different gyms, and while our weight room is only one room, some schools have an entire floor dedicated to pumping iron. Perhaps the only sport that has better facilities is hockey (we use Northeastern's rink), which our teams, in perfect accordance with this example, have historically dominated. You just need to take one glance at Lincoln-Sudbury's fine baseball field or Newton South's magnificent basketball court to understand this. Superior funding, facilities and more space will definitely help you win.

While both boys' and girls' hockey, along with tennis, volleyball, basketball, crew and some of our other sports have been successful recently, do we really belong in the DCL? Pat Cronin (II), a Wolfpack football player, thinks so: "Yes, just because we have one terrible football season everyone [complains]." The problem isn't that the football team has had just one bad season, it's that it hasn't won a DCL championship since 1987 and didn't win a single DCL game this past season. The troubles don't even start with our football history, as a majority of our teams are also now constantly expected to have less than successful seasons, and, for some of them, success may mean getting to a .500 record or even managing to win a single game.

If we were in the City League, our more talented teams would not have been deprived of state tournament spots every year, as was the case last year. Instead, teams such as Latin Academy's baseball, whom we *swept* in two games last year, made the baseball tourney. Who knows what other state playoff runs we have missed, or even championship seasons. On the same day this is being written, the boys' hockey team had its season opener against none other than the Dragons of Boston Latin Academy, and chances are we will run away with a win by a wide margin. That is just a sample of what would happen if we weren't in the DCL, a sample of constant winning, and who ever gets tired of winning? This way we can truly shout our slogan "Sumus Primi" with pride.

Boys' Basketball Wants Respect

BY ANDREW DeSTEFANO, I
SPORTS EDITOR

As a sports fan, one becomes accustomed to hearing teams play the "chip on our shoulder" card. Usually, it's bogus. The Patriots love to do it, though they are regarded by everyone with half of a brain as the best team in football. In some rare cases, the team or player's case is legitimate. This is one of those cases. The Boston Latin Wolfpack enter the 07-08 season as the returning DCL co-champs while only losing two starters

it's just one guy's rankings. We bring it up at practice sometimes, but we just got to stay focused." The best part about this list? It includes an O'Bryant team which BLS recently defeated in a scrimmage a few short weeks ago and two teams that BLS beat in this year's fall league, Durfee and Watertown. And we are still not in the top 20?

"When I first saw it, it was not a surprise that we weren't in the top 20, but I was still disappointed that we still get no love" says Chidozie Ibeabuchi (I), one of the Wolfpack's tri-captains. On top of this, Boston Herald's high school sports blog-

with a back injury. Considine was one of BLS' most consistent scorers and ball handlers on last year's team, so BLS will be lucky to play through the remaining of his injury time without a loss. With a tough matchup against Concord-Carlisle on the horizon, the Wolfpack need to remain focused.

So once again, I implore the faithful members of Wolfpack nation to muster up some spirit and fervor. BLS needs to gain some momentum in the early going if they wish to compete in their two showdowns with the vaunted Knights of Catholic Memorial. With Bedford and

Concord-Carlisle suffering early season defeats it seems that it would be easy for the 'Pack to maybe look ahead to their matchups against Catholic Memorial. But Coach Smith says "we can't look too far ahead in the schedule. We will always be aware of what the big picture looks like and what's going on around us. But we just got to stay focused and



HIGH HOPES FOR BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

to graduation. So it would seem logical that the Wolfpack would be regarded as the favorite (or at least one of them) by most people who follow high school basketball. Right?

Although it is unclear whether or not most people are declaring BLS the favorite in the DCL, they are definitely not getting respect against the rest of the state. When the Mass-Live top 20 came out a couple weeks ago, BLS was shockingly left off the list. Coach Brendan Smith, in response, says that "Yeah, I feel like BLS doesn't get enough respect...But

ger Danny Ventura mentioned Westford Academy as his "preseason sleeper pick in the DCL." Is BLS even mentioned? Take a guess.

At this point, the only thing the Wolfpack can do is silence the critics with their play. They traveled to Weston for their season opener on the 12th and came away with a 30 point victory. Although Weston's squad is regarded as one of the weaker teams in the DCL this year, a 30 point victory will not and should not be ignored, especially with one of their top guards and tri-captains, Dylan Considine (I), out until the beginning of January

take this season one game at a time."

Smith will need to stay true to his word if the 'Pack wish to succeed. As I am finishing this, tomorrow night's potential matchup against Bedford (weather permitting...please I need a snow day!) and Sunday at Catholic Memorial could see BLS without two of its captains. Considine will be sidelined with the aforementioned back injury and Ibeabuchi could miss the games due to family obligations. Nothing new for the 'Pack, though. Our backs always seem to be against the wall. It's just time to show everyone in Massachusetts how to spell R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

The BLS "Dream Team"

BY ANDREW LAWRENCE, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

As one of the most popular, successful sports teams at Boston Latin School, and one of the few teams with a win count exceeding the single digits, girl's hockey is well respected at our school; and all of the girls on the team are working extremely hard to keep it that way. With the loss of only two varsity players and less stress to fill the two empty positions, the Wolfpack is looking strong for the 2007-2008 season. Although suffering a tough defeat in the playoffs last season, the girls are coming back with a vengeance and are among favorites to win the Division 1 state championship this year. Under the leadership of captains Ann-Marie Elvin (I) and Kathleen Roche (I), and returning seniors and assistant captains, Jayme DeFlurin, Katherine Pavone, and Tiana Tassinari, the team has hopes for finishing high in the standings.

To kick-off the season, the 'Pack battled defending State Champions Austin Prep on Wednesday, December 12, and had great success achieving a 2-0 victory. Siobhan Elvin (III) led the way with 47 saves on goal, and was the headline in a Boston Globe article the next morning. Forward Alena Wolfink (II) said "we

have a lot of young talent on our team, but we have 5 seniors who are amazing, and we're going to miss them a lot next year". Wolfink also makes a bold prediction about this season's expectations: "I think we can go all the way this year; we definitely have the talent to do it, and the seniors all *really* want to". The team seems poised for another great season, and a have a good chance of running the board, and winning the championship.

This season, the Wolfpack has probably their toughest schedule in years, facing the defending State Champions twice, the runners-up for the championship once, and the highest ranked team in the state two times as well. Senior Captain Ann-Marie Elvin (I) believes their tough schedule with definitely contribute to their success: "Last year we had a strong season, with a relatively weak schedule. This year our tough schedule will definitely be an asset; we'll be well prepared for the playoffs".

The team seems confident about this upcoming season, and are ready to take on any challenge that they may face along the way. Support for the team is at an all-time high, and even the injured players of the team have helped in their own way, evident through Deirdre Gallagher (III), who had knee surgery, but

cheered from the stands in crutches.

You may wonder, "If there are only five seniors on the team, who else plays?" In net is Siobhan Elvin (III) who won one of the coveted DCL All-star awards last year. The team has a great sense of unity, and Alena Wolfink (II) talks about a newfound sense of teamwork amongst their peers: "The coach is changing around his style a little, and I think we're going to come together more as a team this year." Wolfink also praises the coach for making sure that everyone got a chance to play in Wednesday's win against Austin Prep. Austin Prep is one of the best teams in the state, and the fact that the coach was able to let every person on the team play for that night, shows the widespread talent, and the team's great sense of teamwork. This year will be especially memorable for the seniors. It is both their chance to shine as seniors and their last chance to take back the glory.

This year's team is poised and prepared for a run at the championship, and is going to stop at nothing to achieve their goals. Hockey is not a game for the weak of heart, and you better think twice before underestimating these girls. They do have weapons attached to their feet, and they are definitely not afraid to use them.

Spotlight Chidoziey Ibeabuchi



BY SHERRI ELLYSSA, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I've known Chidozie ever since sixie year (shout out to cluster C!). Even though that's only been about six years, I feel like it's been much longer. He's one of the most fun and caring people I know, but a lot of you know him for a couple of different reasons.

When the average Latin community member sees Chidozie, they think "basketball." I don't think I know anyone who is into the game as much as he is. Chidozie eats, breathes, and sleeps basketball. He plays all year round, from playing on the school's varsity team during the winter season to playing for a traveling team during the summer and fall. He started playing recreationally at the tender year of six and moved on to join a team at the Ohrenberger Elementary School when he was only eight years old. He tried out for the JV team in eighth grade then and played varsity during his sophomore year. Junior year he helped to bring back the DCL co-championship title to our school. Now, in his senior year, he is one of three co-captains and hopes to lead his team to bigger and better titles.

Chidozie utilizes the same passion and determination that he has on the court to his academic life as well. He took three AP courses last year and this year, excelling just as well off the court as he does on it. With a 3.8 GPA, he is a great candidate for top colleges such as Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Boston College, and St. Johns, where he plans to major in sports management.

This stellar academic record combined with his unreal athletic ability might seem incredible to some. But those of you who don't know Chidozie as a basketball player or a "pretty boy" may associate him with yet another word: Dukie. If you know nothing about him, you may know him to be the random older kid who goes around calling everyone dukie. While I may find it a tad bit disturbing to be called a name that refers to something so...gross, many of my fellow classmates love it and have adopted and accepted it as a term of endearment. Go figure.

Outside of school, Chidozie is very dedicated to his family and his community. Living in a family with two brothers and two sisters, he is very family-oriented and loves to help others. During the summer, he volunteers as a camp counselor at the Hyde Park Community Center and he has been a tutor for math at Boston Latin School since the 8th grade.

Now you know he is more than just a random face. He is an exemplary student, a hard worker, an advocate of community service and most importantly, one of the best friends I could ever have.



Boston Latin School Sports



Patriots Wrapping Up Record Season

By PAUL BRIDEAU, I
SPORTS EDITOR

Two weeks ago, the Patriots match-up against Pittsburgh was heralded as the NFL's last hope of halting the undefeated Patriots. With the Steelers pinned against the "evil empire of football," the country expected to see the heroics of Ben Roethlisberger and the strength of the newly reinvented "Steel Curtain." As we all know, this was not the case; Pittsburgh's storybook defeat of the mighty Patriots never materialized, and Brady threw for a season high of 399 yards and four touchdowns en route to a 34-13 win.

One would expect this convincing win to suppress the Patriots-haters of the world, to open their eyes, as the whole "Spygate" situation becomes even less relative to our current success, but this is a foolish expectation. The national media is as devoted to the Patriots' downfall as it is to the liberal views of politics. As much as we want the nation's media to side with our Patriots, we must accept the fact that we are becoming the evil empire, the Yankees of the NFL.

Clearly, there are some differences, as we didn't buy our way to success or have a grouchy old dictator as our owner, but the general idea remains the same. Our once lovable underdog team composed of the Troy Browns and Willie McGinests of the world has become a disliked powerhouse of skill players led by one of the most revered and dreaded men in the league, Bill Belichick.

Just last week, an airplane flew over Gillette Stadium carrying a banner reading "Barry Bonds: 756*, Patriots: 3 Super Bowls*." I was shocked and angered after first discovering this piece of news. I finally began to notice the extent of which the Patriots are detested and the level on which many place them, on that of Bonds. As my personal opinion of Bonds would not be appropriate to publish, I will simply state that this was initially insulting. It, however, soon became evident that the media's stubborn ignorance to the true nature of the "spygate" incident was only helping our team.

This fact could be no more apparent than in the form of Pittsburgh's Anthony Smith guaranteeing a win against the Patriots. I can only imagine how Belichick exaggerated and emphasized these comments in the Patriots locker room during the week leading up to this game. After throwing his first touchdown pass of the game, Brady immediately entered into a heated argument with Smith. But this wouldn't be the last time Smith was burnt for a touchdown as he allowed Randy Moss and Jabar Gaffney behind him for two big yardage touchdown catches. In the postgame press conference, Coach Belichick finally gave a useful quote to the media, saying "We've played against a lot better safeties than [Smith],

I'll tell you that."

Though the game against Pittsburgh only increased our hopes of an undefeated season, the Monday Night Football game a week earlier could have easily destroyed this dream. Coming into



BRADY DEAD ON THIS SEASON

the Monday Night match-up with the undefeated Patriots, the Ravens were 19-point underdogs, the largest deficit for a home team in NFL history. When playing against the Patriots, success is directly correlated to your ability to keep Brady off the field, away from his receivers,

sipping Gatorade on the sideline. Such was the case for the Ravens this Monday; Ravens running back Willis McGahee rushed for 138 yards on 30 carries, the most successful ground attack against the Patriots this year.

The Patriots offense had many of the same problems, as Brady struggled to find open receivers. It may have not been a typical 2007 Patriots victory, but it was absolutely reminiscent of those seen in the dynasty years. It succeeded in sending a shiver down the spine of Patriot Nation, but we should expect to see smooth sailing these last two weeks of the season.

Brady may have already racked up over 4,000 yards passing and a 9-1 touchdown to interception ratio, and Moss may be on his way to surpass Jerry Rice's touchdown reception record of 22, but the excitement won't end after the Super Bowl. The ultimate irony has befallen the NFL as the Patriots own the draft pick of the San Francisco 49ers and will likely have the second or third pick of the NFL draft after a plausible Super Bowl victory. So, as the Patriots are well on their way to their fourth championship in seven years, we can be sure that number five won't be too far away since the team only continues to improve and drastically separates itself from the rest of the NFL.

Girls' Basketball Looks to Disprove Doubters

By ALEXANDRA HORAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Girls basketball is charged and ready to take to the courts with their improved confident attitude that will hopefully put the opinion of an anonymous source to shame: "They're like the boys football team of the winter season." After winning 1 of their 18 games last season, the feeling of many is that their record is old news and new challenges await them. The team is not really sure what to expect from this season, but they are all anxious because they know that they are better than last year. Though, once again we are seeing Coach Roberts' controversial roster decisions, they are not as heavy as those last year (i.e. cutting nominated cap-

tains). After getting over the coaching adjustments, the team agrees they just need to focus, put everything together and come out with some wins.

Both varsity and J.V. have been putting forth an extraordinary effort during practice time and many have been going to the weight room since September and have encountered some really tough conditioning practices. "Coach Roberts and Coach O. are both great coaches and know what they're talking about," says J.V. point guard Allison Florentino. Practices appear to be fun but along with that comes hard work and sweat.

There are two sixies joining the J.V. team this year and despite being a fairly young team, captain Jenny Stone (I) says, "It's noticable that we all work

well together and very hard, and we also have a lot of fun doing it." The girls have already played in a scrimmage against Milton, and while this served more in terms of practice and fun, the Latin girls made use of the newly implemented 8 minute quarters. Senior center Alexis Crittenden mentions, "The rules of the game have been changed this year from 16 minute halves to 8 minute quarters, which is annoying but it's something to adjust to." Crittenden also states that she has high hopes for a better season, because it's senior year and she "wants to win."

As captains, guard Jenny Stone and guard/forward Kasey Preskenis (I) have been as encouraging as possible so the team goes into the season with positive attitudes. Especially after having a

really rough start, as a whole the team is feeling better now. Game number one is Tuesday, December 11th against Weston. "I can't wait for the first game because we're opening against Weston and they're always competitive but I know we can play with them, it'd be awesome to win the first game of the season because I don't think anyone can remember the last time that happened," says captain Jenny Stone.

Clearly, the entire team hopes that this season goes a little bit better than last season. The team has been developing many positive aspirations after getting through a tough season last year; every player is a lot more aware of what each individual has to do to come out stronger and win some more games.

The Mitchell Report: Most Surprising Names

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Miguel Tejada | 6. Paul LoDuca | 11. Ron Villone | 16. Ryan Franklin |
| 2. Roger Clemens | 7. Brendan Donnelly | 12. Larry Bigbie | 17. Jason Grimsley |
| 3. Andy Pettite | 8. Brian Roberts | 13. Mike Stanton | 18. Jeremy Giambi |
| 4. Eric Gagne | 9. Mo Vaughn | 14. Adam Riggs | 19. Gary Sheffield |
| 5. Jerry Hairston, Jr. | 10. Chuck Knobloch | 15. Rick Ankiel | 20. Barry Bonds |



BLS vs. The Nation: Super Tuesday Results

By LILLY ZHAO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

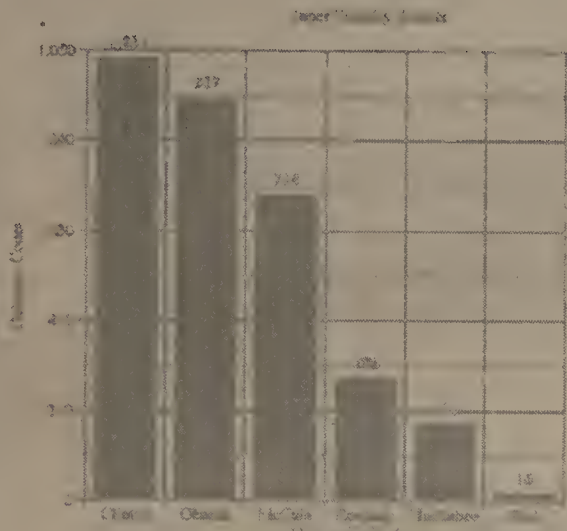
With the presidential election approaching in November, 2008 is expected to be an exciting year in American history. The nation received a glimpse of things to come on February 5, 2008, this election's Super Tuesday. The day was a historic one, with record voter turnout across the 21 states that held primaries and caucuses on this date. Examining nationwide results alongside school polls sheds light on the opinions of Boston Latin School students in relation to those of the American public.

On the Democratic side, presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton were in a tight race to reach the required delegate count for nomination, 2,025. On the Republican side, John McCain showed a more definitive lead over his GOP opponents, Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney, acquiring over half the number of delegates needed to win the Republican nomination, 1191.

Although Clinton currently has more pledged delegates than Obama, the race is still extremely close. There will be

more state primaries and caucuses around the country in the months ahead, each of which will help determine the Democratic nominee.

In the recent months, Latin School's

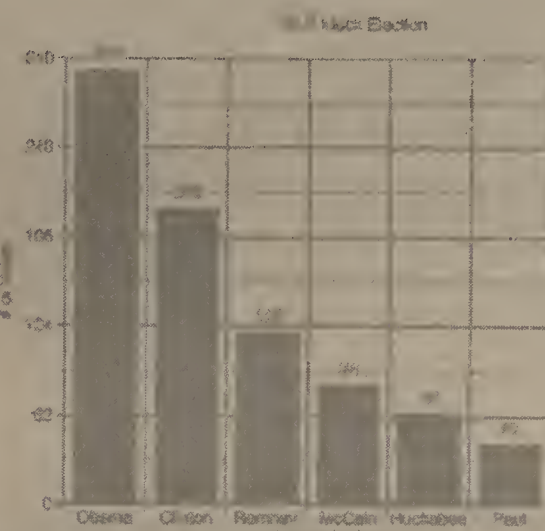


COMPARING SUPER TUESDAY RESULTS WITH BLS MOCK ELECTION RESULTS

government classes held a school-wide mock election, with a total of 1,268 votes cast by students and faculty members, and the results somewhat differed from those of Super Tuesday. Latin School showed a much stronger support for Obama and Giuliani than did the nation; Giuliani, in fact, dropped out of the race shortly

after the Florida primary. But the close race between Obama and Clinton is apparent both in the school and the rest of the nation.

For Latin School students and



teachers alike, the results of the primaries and caucuses were exhilarating to behold. "I'm really happy with the results because there seems to be no clear winner on the Democratic side, so it'll be interesting to see what happens," said Maryana Vrabel (I).

"It's fascinating to see the race still

this close, particularly between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton—and it remains a true testimony to the democracy of America," said Mr. Rashaun Martin, head of the Latin School History Department.

Though Obama has carried more states thus far, Clinton has received a larger number of delegates by winning populous states such as California, New York and Massachusetts. As in past primaries, Clinton fared extremely well on Super Tuesday among white and Latino women, blue-collared Democrats and organized labor. In addition, older Democratic voters tend to prefer Clinton's "experience" to Obama's drive for "change" that has attracted young voters, in particular, from different backgrounds.

With the proportional representation system—whereby the number of delegate votes a candidate receives in a particular state is proportional to the percentage of popular votes he or she receives in that state—the Democratic race for presidency has been historically, and still remains, a tight race between candidates.

SUPER TUESDAY
Continued on page 2

Girls' Group Builds Community of Support

By CHENGLIN YUAN, II
& SHAUNA BENNETT, I
PHOTO EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In recent years, student activists have formed many support groups for female adolescents throughout Boston to bring young women together and help to solve some of the issues that plague most high school girls. Due to the success of these organizations, Kijana Rose (I) and Samantha Curtis (I), with the help of Ms. Megan Moylan and Ms. Andrea Encarnacao, founded the Girls' Group to continue these productive efforts at Boston Latin School.

The Girls' Group was inspired by the Girls' Advisory Council, an organization affiliated with City Hall that identifies widespread problems particular to teenage girls—from peer pressure to parental abuse—and then brainstorms possible solutions. The Girls' Advisory Council also provides resources to its members so that they can create similar outreach programs in their communities.

As Rose and Curtis are actively involved in the Girls' Advisory Council, they decided to create a startup program, the Girls' Group, at Boston Latin School in the hopes that other schools will follow suite.

"The purpose of the group is to serve as a support center for every single girl in the school. Whether it is homework help, or advice on a personal issue, we want to provide resources for any girl in any type of need," said Curtis.

The Girls' Group hopes to reach out to girls from all grades, especially younger girls, and provide them with older role models.

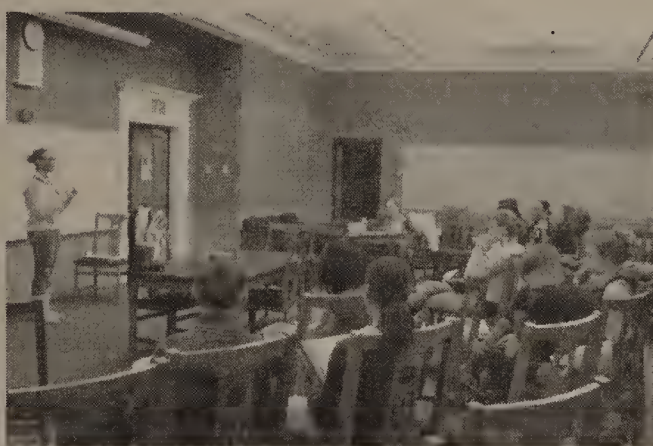
"By providing younger girls with an older role model, they will have positive advice in their lives—a significant element of which

they may have lacked before," said Rose. Lauren Chin (I), a member of the Girls' Group, added, "I could have used this group when I was a Sixie. The adjustment process can be really difficult, so I think the Girls' Group is a really good idea. There are so many girls with issues and if they are not taken care of they evolve into bigger ones."

Since its startup in November, the

Girls' Group has received strong support from adults inside and outside of school. The faculty advisors, Ms. Moylan and Ms. Encarnacao both believe that this group will be very beneficial.

"It is good to build a community and it is important to connect with other girls," said Ms. Encarnacao.



THE GIRLS' GROUP MEETS IN THE SEEVAK ROOM

Thelma DaSilva, the advisor of the Girls' Advisory Council at City Hall, also endorsed the group. "[The Girls' Group] is a great idea

because a lot of girls need 'big sisters.' I had many 'big sisters' who were and still are positive forces in my life which have helped me prosper in many ways," she said.

In order to gain more information about issues pertinent to Latin School girls, the group passed out a survey in December to every girl in the school. The answers to these surveys helped the group determine what resources the girls need.

"Through the surveys, we have discovered what issues need immediate attention and which issues can probably wait a bit longer," said Curtis.

From the surveys, the group leaders have observed that self-confidence seems to be a major issue, as many girls claimed to suffer from low self-esteem.

"With these new insights, the Girls' Group will be able to provide workshops and tactics to help girls improve self-esteem and solve any other obstacles they may face," Rose said.

In the future, the girls are planning to hold workshops on nonviolent communication, time management, peer pressure and various types of stress. They will also invite guest speakers to talk about career choices and health.

At this stage, however, the most important goals of the group are to expand and grow. In the previous meetings, the Girls' Group has been brainstorming ways to publicize its mission so as to encourage younger girls as well as upperclassmen mentors to join.

Through mentoring, workshops, guest speakers and girls' nights, the Girls' Group looks forward to creating a secure environment where girls can bond, support and inspire one another through their Latin School years.

Global News Tidbits

>>>Four-year-old Donovan Hasseman was stuck in his family's washing machine for an unknown reason, perhaps hide and seek? The boy's mother called both 911 and the owner of an appliance store for advice on how to get the boy out. Eventually, firefighters used a tool known as the "jaws-of-life" to cut through the

machine's walls and safely rescue the little boy. (AP)

>>>A baby tiger in Germany was saved by a chance encounter with a medical student strolling in the zoo with her son. The four-month old cub "tried to eat a piece of meat that was too big and started choking and shaking and then fell over," said the student, who immediately got the piece of meat out and started

performing CPR, reviving the baby tiger after a few minutes. (Reuters)

>>>The Woodland Park Zoo has put up two paintings for auction on eBay. Who was the mysterious artist from the zoo? It turns out that it was Towan, the most talented artist in a family of orangutans. Towan draws with chalk and nontoxic pens and prefers primary colors. (AP)

>>>City sewer-line maintenance in Frankenmuth, Michigan, has caused some unprecedented problems. Residents of the city have been witnessing sudden, sporadic bursts of water from their toilet bowls. This is caused by the occasional increase in water pressure to clean pipes. Officials posted warnings in the local newspapers, but later decided to individually post a warning on each resident's front door. (AP)



It is no accident that the publication of the *Argo* always coincides with the most joyous of Latin School occasions. Whenever the good times appear to be rolling, the *Argo* proudly presents itself in its black and white glory. Capitalizing on holidays and vacations, the *Argo* is always there to accompany BLS students when they are brimming with exuberance. This has been our most prudent marketing tactic, well, aside from those nifty and mildly creepy carnation ads on BLS TV (hand in

a box, anyone). Essentially, we are preying on your excitement and hoping that it will translate into a positive reaction for our humble newspaper. And can you really blame us? Is there any better crowd to thrust this illustrious word-rag upon than a pack full of receptive and cheery Latin students? This Pavlovian practice may seem duplicitous or unethical to some, but it really shouldn't. After all, we are just trying to make you happy and if it takes manipulation and brainwashing to do it, then so be it.

Now that this disturbing secret has been unveiled, allow us to wish all of you readers (or, mere sudoku-doers) a Happy Valentine's Day and February break. Enjoy the pretty carnations and the cute stuffed animals. Enjoy the pink stationery and the endorphin-filled chocolate. Enjoy

the sleep and, most of all, enjoy the *Argo*. Indeed, this hearty issue of the paper is fittingly heartfelt. <3

This issue is number four out of seven. That effectively brings into perspective the fact that this year is ending and it may be time to think of the next year. That means thinking about the *Argo* staff of 2008-2009. If you'd like to get truly involved and even assume some responsibility and an editor's position, please make yourself noticed—subtly. For example, stop by our Tuesday meetings in room 114 and speak with an editor. If we repeatedly see your interest, commitment, and skills, it could make all the difference. Start groveling! Just kidding

—Andrew Klein, I
& Alexander Zhu, I

Local News Tidbit: Menino Visits BLS

On February 6, most Latin students were eating lunch or waiting for fifth period to end unaware that such a notable figure was traversing the school's corridors. The honorable Mayor Thomas

M. Menino visited BLS for a largely unpublicized Q&A session regarding his State of the City address. A section from both Ms. Powell's Advanced Placement Government class and Mr. Martin's

regular Government class were lucky enough to attend. Not only were they afforded a nice reprieve from their typical class work but they also gained a tremendous opportunity to interact with a public servant.

SUPER TUESDAY

Continued from page 1

For some, the election results here in Massachusetts were a bit unexpected. "I was surprised to see Romney win Massachusetts and how well Obama fared in Boston. There was a clear split in the Republican Party currently among economic and social conservatives, but McCain seems to have the backing of enough independents to take the lead. And I was excited to see how many students turned out to vote," said Mr. Martin.

"I am surprised that Hillary Clinton won in Massachusetts because she sounds less genuine than Barack Obama, but then again, politicians are actors in many ways," said Sasha Syrkina (I).

For the Republicans, the winner-take-all system has made McCain the clear front-runner after his victories in large states such as California and New York. With a split in conservative votes between Huckabee and Romney, McCain won from coast to coast, making it difficult for his rivals to catch up.

For many, the results were a mixture of shock and vindication. "It was expected for Romney to win in Massachusetts because he was recently the governor of the state, but I was a bit shocked on the Democratic side because given the large number of universities and college students in Massachusetts, I thought Obama

would have more of a lead than Hillary," said Ling Lin (I).

"The results were surprising in how much support Clinton received, because I thought her popularity was on the decline. It was also surprising how ahead McCain is currently in the Republican race; he's a moderate Republican and appears to be more of the 'average Joe,' while Romney doesn't seem genuine and Huckabee is not as well-known as either of them," said Chidozie Ibeabuchi (I).

Despite his extensive spending and lead in initial polls, Romney's failure to acquire a large number of delegates may be largely due to his fight for the "ideological coalition" of America, a faction of the Republican Party that no longer exists. Two days after Super Tuesday, Romney has decided to "suspend" his campaign.

"For the Republicans, I personally think that McCain is a bit too old to be president, but I guess it's because he's a nice guy that people like him," said Rachel Primé (I).

For some others, the results were a plain disappointment. "I'm a bit disappointed that Hillary Clinton is the leading Democrat in Massachusetts, but Obama still has my [theoretical] vote through and through. I pity Mike Gravel because he has all these ideas, but has no votes—I think he has really great ideas. But in the end, I just hope that we have a president who doesn't deface the American public

in the eyes of the rest of the world," said Willy Epiter-Smith (III).

"I was a bit disappointed by the fact that Obama did not win in Massachusetts, but I believe that Clinton is a fine candidate," said Mr. Jim Montague, head of the Guidance Department.

Among the primaries and caucuses in the months ahead, Pennsylvania's primary on April 22 is expected to be a decisive one. In addition, voter turnout is expected to remain high across the states in the months ahead as the race for the Democratic and Republican nominations—and ultimately, the presidency—continues.

Regardless of the final outcome, the record participation rate in the elections demonstrated heightened political awareness in America, marking an important turning point in history. The increasing concern over national issues among young people is a significant change that has been noted by many analysts. As Ms. Celia Sweeney, an American Government and Politics teacher at Latin School, said: "I was impressed with the turnout, particularly of younger voters. It seems like this year's election has more people realizing what an important choice they have to make. I am glad that the races weren't decided on Super Tuesday because it gives more voters a chance to learn about the issues and try to discern what the candidates really stand for."



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BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
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The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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Award

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Excellence in News Writing

Boston Latin School *Argo*
2007–2008 Academic Year

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NEWS

Focus the Nation: BLS Goes Green

BY QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, II
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

On January 31, Boston Latin School held Focus the Nation, a student initiative organized by Youth Climate Action Network (YouthCAN) to raise awareness of global warming. Many unique events took place, including special teach-in sessions conducted by committed teachers and a morning assembly featuring a panel of environmentally active politicians. To further promote the environmental cause, school hallways were decorated with brightly-colored posters. Students and faculty were also encouraged to dress in green to show their support.

Focus the Nation is a nationwide teach-in, featuring both high school and college students. The objective of the event is to have teachers discuss climate change with students in context of their teaching area. At Latin School, YouthCAN measured faculty participation on a thermometer posted outside the main office. In the most recent count, thirty-eight teachers, representing subjects ranging from the sciences to the humanities, agreed to participate in the teach-in.

"Mr. Bilodeau taught us how to predict oil consumption in the year 2020 using a mathematical equation," said Fei Song (I), in reference to her AP Calculus

BC class.

Teachers enjoyed the experience as well. "I liked it. I combined geography and culture with Spanish and I could bring real life events into class," said Mrs. Christine Kelley, a Spanish teacher.

Some students, however, did not have the opportunity to take part in the teach-in.



ENTHUSIASTIC STUDENTS PROMOTE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BEHAVIOR

"Not everybody was aware of it. Some teachers did something and some of them didn't. The effectiveness was limited," said Mehraj Awal (III).

Furthermore, YouthCAN used a paper campaign to publicize Focus the Nation events, educate people about global warming, and offer advice on how to become more "green," or environmentally efficient. The blue tape on the first floor represented the projected sea level in the worst-case scenario determined by

a study conducted at Massachusetts Institute of Technology: By 2100, the sea level may be thirty-three inches higher than it is today, a prediction of particular concern to waterfront cities such as Boston. Posters in the building illustrated other imminent concerns of global warming, including the possible extinction of arctic species.



"I thought it was very positive and encouraging," said Ms. Ana Gomez, a history teacher.

The largest of the activities organized for Focus the Nation was the morning assembly for eighth graders, which featured a panel of local politicians who discussed environmental issues. The event was filmed and broadcasted by BLSTV and WBZ. Guests included City Councilors John Tobin, Maureen Feeney, John Connolly and Sam Yoon, as well as Rep-

resentative Salvatore LaMattina, Senator Anthony Petrucelli and Boston's Chief for Environmental and Energy Services, Jim Hunt. Topics of discussion ranged from adding the subject of climate change to the Boston Public Schools' curriculum to determine how much solar power Boston could use.

Other activities also added to the diversity of the events. YouthCAN held a film festival featuring classic movies such as *Who Killed the Electric Car?* and *An Inconvenient Truth*. During the lunches, costumed Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe members distributed information about carbon dioxide emissions. Moreover, certain seniors conducted taste tests to evaluate the differences between tap water and bottled water—the goal was to convince students that buying bottled water is an unnecessary expense which adds to plastic consumption. Mish Michaels, a meteorologist with WBZ, came to Latin School to talk to members of YouthCAN and their faculty advisor, Cate Arnold, and to photograph the activities.

Ms. Arnold was pleased with YouthCAN's effort. "It was a huge success and it was valuable for the community," she said, "I've never had something like this happen where everybody was involved and I was stunned at how many teachers were willing to participate."

Class I Reacts to Superlatives

BY MARIA WEISSMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

Throughout their final year at Boston Latin School, the members of the Class of 2008 have reached multiple milestones, reminding everyone that graduation is creeping closer and closer. Seniors have submitted their Yearbook pictures, chosen their Class President, won the Powderpuff game, and inevitably drained their bank accounts to cover all the expenses associated with Senior year. Now, superlatives can be added to the list of Senior events that have passed. The votes have been tallied and the results were announced on February 1. The debate is still alive, however, as opinions range from disappointment to satisfaction, with a lot of apathy in between.

The voting took place on Thursday, January 24, during homeroom. Each Se-

nior present was given a list of superlatives and voters were asked to nominate one girl and one boy for each category. "A lot of people were flustered and just voted for whoever they thought of first," said Lauren Chin (I). Indeed, one of the biggest problems mentioned by students was that the six minute time limit was not enough to finalize their decisions.

Responses to the results were mixed. Some viewed the superlatives as a positive and exciting experience. "The results of the superlatives were interesting to see, and they raised discussions among the class members," said Lilly Zhao (I).

Many, however, were upset about the general process. "There are no candidates, there is no class list to choose from, so basically everyone picks the first person that comes to mind or the first person [who has] talked to them about

it," said Joey Nguyen (I). Many seniors were also disappointed that there was no second round of voting. "I think it would have been a lot better if they first had a preliminary round," said Alanna Kelly (I).

Mrs. Craven, the Yearbook advisor, felt that the second round would not change the results. "There's no way for everybody to be happy," added Oyinkan-sola Ayobiojo (I), Clubs and Superlatives Editor, as students could nominate anyone in the Senior class for each category; "It gets into a popularity competition when a second round occurs."

Despite the way the superlatives were chosen, in which gave every Senior a chance to win, some students were surprised by the lack of diversity.

"It's not that the people who won aren't qualified, I just don't think it's a good representation of our grade," said

Greer McCormick (I).

"I was really shocked to see that no Asian people won a superlative," added Samantha Demezieux (I). Others view the homogeneity in a different context. "I don't think it's a question of race, it's who knows who," said Melanie Mulvey (I).

The divisive nature of the superlatives was also brought up by some students, who felt that winning a title was somewhat bittersweet if many contend that it was undeserving. "It's kind of degrading... I think it brings out the worst in people," said Emily Webb (I).

Nevertheless, others believe that it is a trivial part of Senior year that does not need to be overanalyzed. "I don't think it really matters," said Lina Nguyen (I), "it's just for fun."

Ultimately, everyone wins regardless of the outcomes, as the entire senior class was named "Most Likely to Succeed."

Science Day is an "Explosive" Success

BY DENISE NGUYEN, II
& KATHLEEN PIERRE, II
A&E ASSISTANT EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On February 2, 2008, Boston Latin School hosted its third annual Science Day along with the 62nd anniversary of the Science Fair. While many students presented impressive science research in the dining hall, others hosted a science expo packed with presentations and hands-on experiments on the third floor. The events gave visitors a glimpse of the five sciences offered at Boston Latin School: physics, chemistry, biology, earth science and environmental science.

Enthusiastic student volunteers guided the guests through the litany of science projects and experiments. The biggest hit of the day was the third Annual "Cool Chemistry Show," organized by Mr. Scott Balicki and his chemistry classes.

The show took off with a bang—literally—with demonstrations featuring the explosive nature of dry-ice and heated hydrogen-filled balloons. The durability of paper

money was then put to the test in "Hot Cash," an experiment in which the students dipped a 20 dollar bill in alcohol and set it aflame. Next, the Collapsing Can experiment demonstrated the crushing effect of pressure, followed by "Chameleon," an oscillation reaction in which a solution turned orange, then clear, and back to orange again.

Meanwhile, the physics lab was "attracting" its audience through many hands-on demonstrations involving the magnetic properties of charged pie tins, circuits, motion detectors and a double pendulum. Paul Kreiner (II), a student volunteer, found that "explaining the pendulum to younger kids was a hard thing to do, but being able to teach someone else about what I enjoy most gives me a great feeling."

At the other end of the hallway,

the biology and Earth science students were demonstrating their knowledge of their respective sciences by dissolving oxygen and identifying a species



YOUNG MINDS OPEN TO THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE

from random combinations of DNA sequences.

While perusing the exhibitions, visitors could gain some more tangible "food for thought." The "Science Fair Cafe," a

bake sale hosted by the Science Team, was a new addition to Science Day.

After the Science Expo, visitors and volunteers all filed down to view the projects in the dining hall after the judges had evaluated them. There was research covering topics from all corners of the scientific world, from "A Simple Cure for Cutaneous Anthrax," by Samuel Han (IV) in the Senior Division to "Does Smell Affect Taste," by Enemchi Izuchi (VI) in the Junior Division. Many of these contestants will be competing in the Boston Regional Science Fair on March 8.

Mr. Balicki and many others viewed the day as a success, commenting that the expo was both "well-featured and advertised," while the fair participants were "well-prepared."

"This is the vision we had for Science Day. The community is participating to celebrate students who have achievements both in and out of the classroom," he said. This day carries on the tradition of the Boston Latin School excellence in science.

FORUM

Mooney-Teta Ensures Students Will Be Heard

BY QUEEN ARSEM-O'MALLEY, II
& ANDY VO IV
STAFF WRITERS

Everyone is sick of YouthCAN. Believe me, they know. But they are also thrilled—because that means at least you have heard of them. More so this year than last, YouthCAN's initiatives have been seen and heard. And this year's changes can be directly attributed to another change in the school: a guiding figure in the main office. Head Master Lynne Mooney Teta has hit the ground running, determined to make an impact on Boston Latin School. Though having only held the position for five months, Ms. Mooney Teta has become involved and committed to the students, parents and faculty that make up the Boston Latin School community.

Ms. Mooney Teta has had, of course,

lots of educational experience. Before returning to Boston Latin as an assistant headmaster, she worked at Needham's Pollard Middle School. Ms. Anne Whitredge, principal at Needham's Broadmeadow Elementary School, worked with Ms. Mooney Teta on district-wide projects. "We were all very sorry to see her leave Needham," she said last week of Ms. Mooney Teta's departure, "but she loved Latin and knew that was the perfect place for her."

Since assuming the post, Ms. Mooney Teta has connected with students, from discussing the Red Sox at the welcome assembly to supporting clubs with advice and encouragement. "It's definitely a more open environment," said Becky McCarthy (II). "She's more approachable and she has something about her that makes you want to talk to her." The senior class officers, who frequently

meet with Ms. Mooney Teta, say that she is receptive of new ideas, and even if she doesn't agree with them, willing to compromise rather than shoot them down.

The faculty has also noticed the changes that Ms. Mooney Teta has made and believes that her positive attitude about the school and her new ideas have lightened the mood at the Latin School. This could come from her ability to relate to students, having graduated from Boston Latin in 1986. "She has strengthened communication amongst students, faculty, administration and parents, as evidenced by her senior interviews, Parents Communication Committee, and open office hours where she welcomes faculty feedback," said Ms. Kathleen Bateman '93, director of the science department. Ms. Mooney Teta has also made herself known to parents. Last month the headmaster invited all parents for a meeting to

discuss and possibly update the mission statement to ensure that it fits with the school's aims.

There are some issues that haven't been addressed in the past that we hope Ms. Mooney Teta will tackle in the future. If the headmaster wants to reform the school and lead it on a new frontier, she should address issues that are often neglected. Ms. Mooney Teta should continue to evaluate the teaching methods to make sure that they meet her vision for the school. Seniors have also long brought up ideas of finally reestablishing senior privileges. With Ms. Mooney Teta's openness, these goals aren't unattainable. Given the amount of change that has been enacted already this year, we look forward to see what the future holds for the Latin School.

Obama is Change for America

BY WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, III
STAFF WRITER

"The results may not all be in, but one thing is certain—change is coming to America!" That is what Barack Obama said on February 5, just as polls were closing on "Super-Duper Omega Tsunami Tuesday," as pundits lovingly described it. For a while, it was expected that this massive, 24-state primary for both Republicans and Democrats would cinch the nomination for both parties.

But even if change is coming to America, change did not really come to the primary season. Across the board, states went every which way—Clinton won most of the Northeast, Obama won the deep south; Clinton won the near south, Obama won the Midwest; Clinton won California—it was almost as if all the voters got together and decided, "Hey, wouldn't it be fun if no one won the nomination this year? We'll just have a half dozen politicians wandering around the country aimlessly!"

Democratic candidates will travel to Wisconsin and Hawaii later this week, and perhaps even go as far as Ohio, Texas and Mississippi next month. The crazy thing is, while the Republicans seem unified behind McCain, the Democrats are simultaneously more excited and more divided than ever before. Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama? That is the question.

The two-person race has caused a lot of negative campaigning to go on—mostly, it seems, from the Clinton to the Obama campaigns. Former President Clinton was criticized for "racializing" the South Carolina primary by comparing Obama to another African-American candidate who had campaigned, and won, in the state—Jesse Jackson, twice, in the 1980s. Similarly, when Hillary Clinton commented that "it took President Johnson to fulfill Dr. King's vision of racial equality," voters interpreted it as her saying that LBJ was more important than MLK, and seemed to respond by giving Obama double Clinton's number of votes in South Carolina.

Despite this, the Democratic Party is still quite split—Massachusetts is a good example, where both senators and the governor endorsed Obama, but Boston's mayor and the leaders of the state legislature endorsed Clinton. Ironically, Obama edged out Clinton in Boston and its surrounding communities, but Clinton won with growing leads in towns closer to the

south and west of the state. It should be noted as a sign of Obama's popularity among younger voters that he led two to one in several communities near the college town of Amherst. While Obama was also popular on the Cape and islands, John Edwards, a candidate who has withdrawn from the race, had a strong third-place finish.

Both Clinton and Obama would

What's Next for John McCain?

BY BRYAN RODRIGUEZ, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After what appeared to be an unassailable lead in number of delegates for John McCain, his campaign just got sweeter when Mitt Romney surprisingly suspended his bid for the Republican ticket last week. The former Massachusetts governor announced his decision in

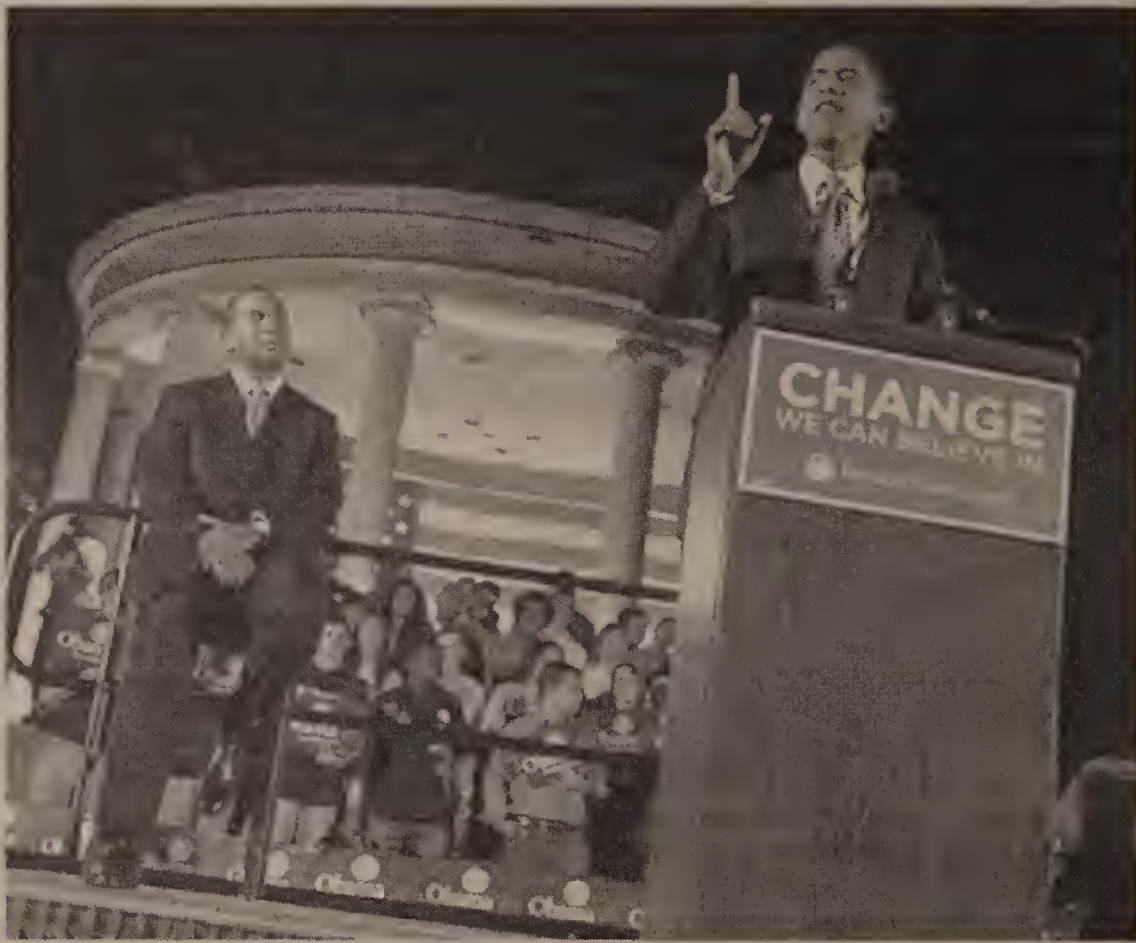
his experience and influence is most felt after his tenure as Arkansas' governor. Political analysts have noted though that Huckabee's success in the south might not stem from the conservative appeal he embodies but a result of old-fashioned political strategies designed to sway votes away from one candidate to another.

McCain now faces endless criticism and scrutiny from his own party. In hopes of defeating the rejuvenated Democratic Party, he must find a way to weave together his own party in the general election. McCain and Romney symbolize an ideological division that is being felt more everyday within the party. Moderates and independents have shown they are willing to rally behind McCain for his consistent positions on issues such as immigration reform and campaign-finance regulation that are more centrist than conservative.

This support for bipartisan legislation angers staunch conservatives who find more reason to attack McCain daily for his record. In these next months, it will be crucial for McCain to shift his campaign toward a more conservative position, similar to that of Romney, who became the far-right's candidate of choice. A sudden unification of the party is the exact what McCain needs to propel him into battle against an energized Democratic Party.

Even if a typical Massachusetts voter might not feel content voting for a candidate in support of continued American commitment in Iraq, voters can still flock to McCain if he maintains a strong interest in national security. Mideast conflict and the volatile political system in Pakistan, which has proven to be a deadly game, can make the difference for McCain. He should try to highlight the democratic nominee's lack of commitment to homeland security. But, his dominance will does not end there. Polls have found that the American public is very concerned about the downward spiral the economy has taken. McCain will need to communicate an effective economic plan that won't infringe on conservative ideals but at the same time assure mainstream Americans that the country's economy is back on the right track.

John McCain has a lot riding on his shoulders now. In his path stands neo-conservatives and evangelicals unsatisfied



OBAMA SPEAKS ON THE BOSTON COMMON WITH GOV. PATRICK

undoubtedly make good presidents; or at the very worst, a massive upgrade from Bush, and far better than McCain who would stay in Iraq for, by his own own words, "a hundred years," and would also continue Bush's tax cuts which benefit the wealthiest 1% of Americans.

You may have noticed that I am pro-Obama. The reasons for this are manifold; as a young person, I feel Obama can better represent our generation and embodies a kind of politics that no longer relies on the old policies of divisiveness. Clinton seems to represent many of the negative aspects of U.S. politics—unlike Obama, she receives money directly from lobbyists, and recently loaned \$5 million to her campaign from her personal fortune—quite a "Romneyan" tactic. And perhaps even worse than her negative attacks on Obama, her foreign policy stances creep towards right-wing, and she galvanizes

front of the Conservative Political Action Conference, where many political activists had been reluctant to endorse McCain due to his backing of moderate policies during his senatorial career.

This debate about which candidate was the true conservative were highlighted in skirmishes between Romney and McCain, who had been at each other's throats over controversial issues including immigration, gay marriage, and tax cuts. Though McCain does not stand alone in the race just yet, it can be said that the media's recent labeling of McCain as the G.O.P. front-runner is well deserved. As of February 8, 2008, McCain holds an astounding 536 delegate lead over the only other candidate, Mike Huckabee. Though these numbers are a source of optimism for McCain's camp, a rocky road lies ahead if he hopes he supported by the entire Republican Party. On Super Tuesday for instance, Mike Huckabee did fairly well and actually won five states, most of them from the Deep South where

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McCain
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FORUM

SHOULD THE HOLLYWOOD WRITERS END THEIR STRIKE?

YES

NO



By JASMYNE DEBEZ, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the past 13 weeks, on that one rare night when you have little to no homework, you might turn on the TV, and instead of the newest episode of *24*, a rerun meets your disappointed eyes. And it's not *just* your favorite show that has suddenly ceased to exist. Sitcoms like *The Office* and *Two and a Half Men* have halted production and even soap operas like *Guiding Light* and *All My Children* have come to a standstill. Dramas such as *Lost* and *Heroes* may be on the proverbial chopping block. *Grey's Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Heroes* and *Ugly Betty* are among those whose seasons have been cut in half. These are only a few of the shows that have been affected by the writers' strike. ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX and all the other letters of the alphabet are all severely affected by this entertainment twilight zone.

The strike serves to benefit no one but the writers. Not only does it hamper the interest of viewers of specific shows, but it also has a negative economic impact on the entire industry. With no work, production employees are being laid off, and many cast members are joining the strikers or searching for other work. Networks are losing millions of advertising dollars weekly as viewer ratings drop. The last strike of this kind occurred in 1988, lasted almost 22 weeks and cost the American entertainment industry approximately \$500 million (equal to \$870 million, inflation-adjusted). According to a report on the January 13 edition of *NBC Nightly News*, this time, the strike has already cost the industry \$1 billion, including the lost wages of cast and crew members and payments for services provided by concierges, caterers, prop and costume rental companies and so on. This continued loss of currency has created a ripple effect that is damaging the related industries.

Even if the strike ended today, television and film industries would not be able to regain their footing immediately and resume shooting. At present, only the Writers Guild of America (WGA) is participating in the strike; however, on June 30, 2008, the contract entertainment companies have with the Screen Actors Guild expires. If the WGA's strike continues, they could gain an ally by summer and drag out the strike until it has milked the entertainment industry for all it can get. The writers are playing a skillful game of chicken with Hollywood, waiting to see who will back down first.

If the strike does not end soon, the entertainment industry will suffer even more. Mindless reality television will take over scripted slots, award telecasts will become virtually extinct and television as we know it will disappear. The film industry will then become more heavily affected and rely on the crutch of endless sequels and old scripts. The writers should be content with their present condition and stop the madness! They're not only harming the public, but also damaging their own art. It's time for the writers to give up and say "Uncle."

By CALVIN ATKINSON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The many regular television viewers of America are probably feeling the effects of the now three-month-long writers' strike, as some of their favorite shows didn't return for a new season this year and shows that are still running (specifically late-night programs) are doing so without hired writers.

The Writers Guild of America (WGA) is part of an industry that a large portion of the public cares about. Unfortunately for us, television and movies are forms of entertainment that we love and, as a result of the strike, might have to live without for a while. That also means that a lot of Americans are going to start complaining. In reality, though, what is there to complain about? Sure, our primetime television will be lacking for a little while, but there are so many ways to get your TV fix that we could adapt to survive the drought. Think about it: online clips from sources like YouTube, box sets of your old favorite shows and the discovery of a few new ones, reruns on TV and cable. There is enough programming to last us until the strike ends.

At any given time, half of the WGA can be unemployed and looking for a producer to write for. At such times, they have two things to rely on: money earned from previous work and cash that comes in from things like DVD sales. That means that during a time of unemployment, a writer has to rely on the nickles and dimes from DVDs and whatever money he or she has left from past jobs.

So the striking writers are looking to put more money in their pockets. Did you know that under the current contract, a writer only receives 0.3 percent of the profits from a DVD sale? That typically amounts to about five cents for a DVD of a show or movie that he or she helped to write. In addition to pay increases, the WGA is also requesting that its members be consulted before their material is reproduced on the Internet and other media. This is a simple request considering the writers' valuable creative input.

Many people underestimate the integral role that writers play in the entertainment industry. Almost every TV show includes some form of written material. That includes everything from the dialogue in *Grey's Anatomy* to Ryan Seacrest's narration on *American Idol*. Big award shows such as *The Academy Awards* and *The Golden Globes* also depend on writers for providing the structure of the banter, as well as the wit.

It is largely because of those anticipated broadcasts (and also due to the public's thirst for their favorite series) that the WGA is optimistic about the strike ending soon. Producers know that the public craves these media events and that the writers are essential to their success. The last time the writers went on strike in 1988, it lasted for five months. Hopefully, this one will end sooner. That means that the public only needs to survive a little longer without its TV. If we can last, the writers will get the compensation they deserve and go back to creating engrossing programming for us.

But seriously, as long as you can avoid watching *American Gladiator*, the waiting isn't too hard. If you've really exhausted every video on YouTube, every DVD you can afford and are bored of reruns, then go fly a kite. Take a walk. Read a good book. You probably need a break from TV, anyway.

Forum
Question

Are any TV shows you like being delayed due to the writer's strike? Do you think they should stop striking? Why?



"No, not currently. But *'One Tree Hill'* took a hiatus in the past because of apparently low ratings. Now the last season is cut in half for some reason."

—Lilly Zhao, I



"Yes, there are a few. Maybe because I really want my shows back but then again they should get whatever the reason they went on strike for."

—Elisa Cheng, II



"House was delayed because of the writers strike. Sure because new episodes of shows need to come out. Reruns are getting annoying."

—Tarek Tarshahani, III



"Well, I don't watch many TV shows so none that I know have been cancelled or delayed."

—Dan Moreno, IV



"Yes. House and *Desperate Housewives* is delayed. But, I think they should keep going with the strike until they get what they want because the writers should get paid what they desire.."

—Angie K. Isaza, V



"No, because my favorite television show, *The Simpsons*, is not being delayed."

—Henry Kwan, VI

FORUM

Letters to the *Argo*

Money Is Love

BY RICHARD PENG, I
STAFF WRITER

Our economy is already in a recession or rapidly spiraling into one. The falling Dow Jones Stock Index, the housing crisis and the single digit numbers in my bank account are the first things our future presidents will mention in their speeches. The government is trying to stimulate the economy by injecting \$170 billion worth of tax refunds. They are obviously overlooking the basics (along with my bank account). All we need is Valentine's Day.

Third only to Christmas and my birthday, the day commemorating the martyrdom of St. Valentine's convinces people to go out and spend. There are definitely better ways to show you care than material gifts, but gifts from the heart, rather than the wallet, do not have the same effect as a poster of Jessica Alba. As a bonus, the latter both makes the recipient happy, as well as increases America's aggregate demand for goods. Increased demand will help the economy and show your patriotic spirit. Do your civic duty as an American and spend your money on Valentine's Day. But what should you buy? Hershey's and Zales are not the companies in trouble.

Instead of chocolates and jewelry, why not a fixed-rate mortgage? Show that special someone in your life you care with a Detroit-built Ford F-150. But why stop at one person? Our economy is not just doing bad; it is showing the early symptoms of the measles. Just buying something for "The One" (or "The Temporary Substitute") is not patriotic enough. To be a true American, you need to expand your Valentine's shopping list. Get something for your mom, your little brother, your mailman, your best friend and most importantly, get something for your favorite *Argo* columnist.

Sadly, Capitol Hill does not understand the power of Valentine's Day and the value of sending those aromatic carnations to your friends in homeroom. Rather than harness flower power, the House has just approved a \$150 billion economic stimulus package and sent it to the White House. Anyone with knowledge of the economy knows that this will not help: the checks will not be arriving until May at the earliest. The other reason is that a lot of that money will not go directly into the economy. The plan is for individuals with incomes between \$3,000 and \$75,000 to receive \$300 to \$600. Couples, on the other hand, will receive up to \$1,200 in rebates, so you'd best buy that special someone something nice. The hope is that the recipients will spend it all, but the government is targeting the wrong people. Families, those who stand to benefit the most, will probably spend their government checks on rising living expenses such as food, gas, heating, bills and mortgages. There will not be anything left to spend at the mall.

The most effective part of the bill should be a provision for families to receive an additional \$300 per child. Your parents will love you just a little bit more now. But they obviously do not love the economy. If they did, they would give you that \$300, which is due to your existence and rightfully yours to spend. And you, playful child that you are, will go out and spend it on a brand new Wii and inadvertently save our floundering economy.

But since you'll probably never see a cent of that tax break, we must take our chances on Valentine's Day. Hopefully enough people will decide to give the gift of a Dodge Ram as a symbol of love in order to take us out of our slump.

Dear *Argo*,

While we can all agree that it is important to alert the student body about important issues, I would like to examine how the Focus the Nation event played out.

The idea was certainly a good one. Having teachers pledge to give an environmental lesson instead of following their regular curriculum did show that we have a staff dedicated to spreading awareness about environmental issues, and the message that we need to take action as a community was clearly conveyed to almost the entire school. The only problem I have, however, is with the execution. On "Green Thursday" the entire first floor was plastered with posters and painter's tape, and underclassmen in fancy costumes handed out fliers and candy in the Dining Hall.

Although it is true that the posters were colorful and informative, I still have to ask why they were only put up on the first floor. The juniors and seniors are not the only ones who can benefit from extra knowledge about global warming and "going green"—the younger students deserve to learn about this global phenomenon as well. The information should have been spread out over more than just a quarter of the building. I was also disappointed to see that since the numerous signs on display were not taken down immediately after the event, some of them were ripped and then thrown away with the regular trash rather than recycled, as I had hoped would be done to them when they were finally removed.

Although the fliers may have seemed like a good idea at first, one has to remember that most of them ended up on the floor and in the trash, instead of in a recycling bin. Since the day was devoted to teaching people to protect the earth, I would have thought certain values would be kept in mind—not wasting paper, for example. And no matter how eye-catching the costumes were, they did not lead students to take the wearers seriously or lend much legitimacy to their argument.

Next year, I suggest keying down the costumes and not handing out the fliers. If more effort is spent on spreading the scientific information evenly throughout the school and recruiting teachers for the event, I'm sure it would have a much greater impact on the students here rather than on the earth's depleting resources.

-Lindsay Johnson, I

You can email your thoughts, questions, comments and criticism to blsargo.talkback@gmail.com

A Serious Case of the Preggers

BY RACHEL PRIMÉ, I
STAFF WRITER

What do Ellen Page, Katherine Heigl and Jamie Lynn Spears all have in common? They are young female celebrities who have gotten knocked up this year. Fortunately for Page and Heigl, their pregnancies were just part of movie roles that required them to play shocked mothers-to-be with clueless boyfriends, in *Juno* and *Knocked Up*, respectively. For 16-year-old Spears, this pregnancy is quite real and quite unexpected. The father is 19-year-old Casey Aldridge, who is described by Mama Spears as "well-liked" and "responsible." I wouldn't put so much weight on "responsible" given the circumstances, but I suppose the word can be interpreted in different ways. Thank God young girls still have Miley Cyrus to look up to, but who knows what scandals we'll hear about now that she's dating one of the Jonas Brothers. Jamie Lynn has older sister Britney to serve as a role model in these hard times, but I'm not so sure how much guidance the elder Spears sister can give from the psych ward of UCLA Medical Center.

In *Juno*, after the title character gives up her baby to a wealthy family, she continues her post-pregnancy life as a normal teenager—as if she hadn't just carried a baby around for nine months. The dialogue is hysterical, but the plot itself is unrealistic. Giving a baby up for adoption is not the simple process that *Juno* portrays it to be, and the emotional effects last far longer in real life. To the prospective adoptive parents, Juno asks, "Wait... No! I mean, can't we just, like, kick this old school? Like, I have the baby, put it in a

basket and send it your way, like, Moses and the reeds?" What message does this send to teenage girls? Though the movie is entertaining, it is a false illustration of the outcome of teenage pregnancies. In fact, only about a third of teenage mothers give their babies up for adoption, and less than one third of teens who have babies before age 18 even finish high school, according to teenpregnancy.org.

The irresponsibility on the part of Spears and Juno's character is the first sign that neither are ready for the major task



JUNO MAKES TEENAGE PREGNANCY LOOK SO EASY

of caring for an infant. Teenage pregnancy, however, is always easier to deal with in movies (because it is not real), and in Hollywood because celebrities can afford to have their babies and still live in luxury. In a few months, Spears will be sporting designer maternity clothes while smiling at the paparazzi. For the rest of us, a teenage pregnancy would mean an economic crisis and a major roadblock in future career plans. Almost 80 percent of the teenage mothers in the United States end up on welfare.

Heigl, as Alison Scott in *Knocked Up*, plays a successful TV show host who

discovers that she is pregnant after a one-night stand with Ben Stone (Seth Rogen). Both characters try very hard to stay together for the sake of the baby. But they find it increasingly difficult to even be in each other's presence because they have next to nothing in common. Often, unmarried young women are left to take care of the babies on their own as the prospective fathers mysteriously disappear. *Knocked Up* does have a happy ending, and Ben does stay by Alison's side throughout the pregnancy, but in the real world, this is rarely the case.

Despite receiving much of the spotlight, Hollywood mothers in general are not the best examples of nurturing parents. These celebrity role models make it seem that being a young mother is glamorous and fun. Britney is free to go off partying with Paris while her sons are safe at home with Nanny. Often we see celebrity mothers prancing around Sunset Boulevard in their stilettos and miniskirts, closely followed by nurses toting their children. Perhaps Jamie Lynn will prove to be a good mother and we'll all have to put our collective feet into our mouths.

Why are we so fascinated and entertained by pregnant celebrities? Why do we care what they plan on naming their child or how long it takes for them to work off the baby weight? Maybe we need the reassurance that celebrities are mortals like us, not the gods they are portrayed to be. Only instead of living with a high school drop out their kids will live the glamorous life, complete with diamond-encrusted pacifiers and diapers by Louis Vuitton. Don't let celebrities fool you, reality isn't like what you see in the movies.

Dear *Argo* readers:

The current leaders of today's climate change movement inspired the students of the Boston Latin School YouthCAN to do what we can to help address the problem of global warming. People such as Al Gore and Laurie David have dedicated their lives to raising awareness about the problem of climate change. They, too, have often faced criticisms about their methods in these pursuits. David travels the globe giving presentations about climate change and is criticized for the fuel and energy used in her travels.

It is true that YouthCAN used a significant amount of paper in promoting the Focus the Nation event and in attempting to focus attention on the issue of climate change. It is, however, absolutely untrue that even a single sign that was made ended up in the trash. All of them were saved for future use at the Youth Summit on May 10, 2008 at MIT.

In response to concerns about entertainment during the lunches, about 200 pieces of paper were used, less than what teachers use on a single quiz. YouthCAN students are well aware of the costs of using paper, but judge it to be worthwhile in the interests of raising awareness and sharing information. We decided that reaching 2,400 students was worth the 200 sheets of paper.

The lunchtime entertainment and water taste tests were meant to generate excitement and catch people's attention, which they succeeded in doing. While they were lighthearted in nature, there were equally serious events that took place elsewhere during the day. Focus the Nation began with a first-period political round table discussion on environmental policies in Massachusetts, which was broadcast on BLSTV for everyone to watch and even aired on the WBZTV 6 o'clock news. The lunchtime activities were meant to create a balance between traditional learning and fun.

As for the concerns that the posters were not spread out beyond the first floor, it was our intention to concentrate the blue tape and posters on the main floor of the building so that they would create a stronger impact. Most students pass through the first floor at least once a day, and the first-period assembly was attended by the eighth grade, so we did aim to include the entire school in the event.

Overall, Focus the Nation was meant to raise awareness in the school as a community, and we believe that it succeeded. If our generation is going to make any difference in the world, we need to work together to make it happen.

-Zoe Fahy, II

(BLS YouthCAN Vice President)

National Restrictive Society

BY SAMANTHA KAUFMAN, I
STAFF WRITER

I was inducted into the National Honor Society recently. Recently, as in this morning. As I sat there listening to the many speakers extolling our accomplishments, I looked around. Actually, I looked behind me at all of those not sitting up front with the inductees. I saw classmates and friends who deserved to be sitting next to me. I saw people whom I consider equally, if not more, 'honorable' as some sitting near me. The irony and frustration was overwhelming.

I'm not insulting the National Honor Society. In truth, I think that the idea of the society is a great one: congratulating and recognizing those among our class who have truly worked the hardest and proven themselves worthy members of our community. After all, isn't that what it's all about? It's for those who have worked harder than others; it's for those who have contributed to the Boston Latin School community. My question is this: how can we be judged correctly with the limited criteria that we put forth upon being invited to apply.

The induction process is inherently unfair. It judges people on a system that is simultaneously too subjective and too objective. Not surprisingly, there's the grade point average cut-off, as academics rank highest on the list of criteria used to select students. But beyond the grades, what makes someone honorable enough? According to the applications, it's based on how many activities you do, how many days you have been absent over the years and how many tardies you have racked up. Oh, and I forgot about the committee. A group of ten teachers and administrators decide whether or not you have that *je ne sais quoi* to make it into the elite society.

On one hand, the application process really feels more like filling a number of requirements rather than a holistic look at the individual. An applicant needs to have a certain GPA, a certain number of activities and a certain number of hours of in-school service in order to ensure that inductees are well rounded enough. Supposedly. However the subjectivity of the process is overwhelming. At other schools, such as Lexington High School, the society there requires that students send in a recommendation letter along with an application similar to ours. At BLS, it is a committee of ten teachers who

McCain

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with his record, Democrats calling for changes in D.C., a handful other primaries that could go to Huckabee. The decisions McCain makes in the next few weeks will shape the direction he plans to take his national campaign as presidential nominee. Whether or not conservatives, evangelicals, and even moderates and

OBAMA

Continued from page 4

Republicans, and even independents, like few other Democrats. Obama seems like a clear contrast for the better. After all, quantifying the experience of the two is ridiculous—no one in Washington has had longer resumes than Vice President Cheney and Former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, and look how much damage they did in Bush's first term alone. Nothing can prepare a candidate for the challenge of the Presidency.

It is clear many other voters see beyond this rhetoric as well; Obama won more states and more pledged

determine the quality of your character. But the big question here is: how do they know someone's character? What if none of them know you? Hopefully they will ask a teacher who has interacted with you for their opinion. But even this can present serious advantages, or disadvantages, to many. What if you have had a bad experience with one of these teachers? What if one of them has recently written you a stellar college recommendation? What if not one of these ten knows who you even are? How is this system not subjective?

Each year I hear from those who have been rejected, often for the silliest of reasons. The most frustrating is when a small slip in grades or a ridiculous conduct grade keeps people out. We all know about certain teachers who hand the antiquated misdemeanor mark out like candy. Shouldn't the committee recognize as well and take that into account? Furthermore, why is it that more than five tardies or absences makes a person dishonorable? Even if you are able to explain each and every single one, should you have to? If you are even at the point of applying to the NHS you must have maintained a certain grade point average. And if you have been able to complete the all work at BLS, than the number of times you have not been able to get here on time should not matter.

The National Honor Society at our school wants to have it both ways. They want to be restrictive, and yet they don't want to put the work into finding the truly worthy, partly because they wouldn't be able to devote enough time to a full review of each student. In order to make this painful process fair the "committee" needs to pick a side. Either be correctly selective or don't be selective at all. Other schools, such as Stuyvesant High School, the top public exam school in NYC, take a very different approach to their National Honor Society. Stuyvesant requires more rigorous applications, as well as interviews, to weed out less worthy members of the class. If they want to be truly selective at BLS, those who select society members need to go all the way. They need to look at each student on a more individual basis and look beyond some of the clutter that can color a student's application. And if they are not willing to do the additional work, then they should let people in based solely on GPA. After all, just maintaining that GPA is honorable enough.

independents will go along with him is unknown. It is difficult to ask a man to revisit the basic beliefs on which his decisions have been made for twenty years in the Senate, but this is the exact pressure McCain is being put under. We will have to see if McCain can redirect himself and work towards a position in the oval office or if an inability to change himself will undermine the presidential campaign Republicans desperately want to win.

delegates in Super Tuesday (though admittedly, the margins were slim), and he has gotten donations from the most number of people of any campaign in history—650,000. Most of these donations are of small amounts, around \$25, coming from individual Americans, instead of lobbyists and corporations who donate thousands of dollars at a time. But, ironically, what you decide now will not have a tremendous impact: those of you who are eligible to vote already did. For those reading who are still awaiting the thrill of enfranchisement, support for Obama and enthusiasm about his campaign are critical to his continued success.

FORUM

Application Overload

BY DENISE NGUYEN, II & CYNTHIA WU, II
ASST. A&E EDITOR & ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Facebook used to be known for its simple, user-friendly website recognizable by its white and blue color scheme. The addictive wall-to-wall public commenting system, among other features, originally attracted users fed up with MySpace pages, which tend to be garish, load slowly and attract stalkers. Currently, users on Facebook are wondering if their beloved social networking site is mutating into a MySpace clone because of a deluge of third-party applications that take away from its core experience.

The strength of Facebook was that it allowed us to keep in contact with people whom we do not talk to on a usual basis: long-distance friends, family and even childhood acquaintances. Friend requests and notifications about new wall posts trickled into our inboxes and used to be a momentous occasion, but today, when one logs in, the small box in the right-hand corner gives a false sense of excitement when it displays “143 other requests.” This gets just a tiny bit annoying. A small percentage of Facebook users may in fact *be* that popular, with legions of friends posting on their wall and sending them invitations for real-life events or online groups, but for most of us mere mortals, these “143 other requests” are from pesky Facebook Applications.

Now, some of these applications are not too bad; they add features that Facebook's developers overlooked. They let us doodle on our friends' walls, send free digital gifts and bumper stickers and even share endless lolcats. Everyone likes pretty pictures, free stuff and kittens with hilarious captions, but once you start getting asked "What is your stripper name?" Facebook stops feeling like Facebook and the frivolity makes it feel more like MySpace. "If I wanted to be on MySpace, I'd be on MySpace," says Amber Cranston (II); a lot of people switched because Facebook was nice and simple—the keyword being "was."

These applications are getting ridiculous, to the point that it can take a while to find someone's actual wall on their profile page. For the most part, these do not offer information or serve as innovative tools for a profile but instead clutter it. At worst, they act as pyramid schemes. Most famously, your request list may include the dreaded "Dear victim, You have been bitten by [Your Obnoxious Friend]! Click the 'Start Biting Chumps' button to become a Vampire and start biting other chumps! You can also fight other Zombies, Vampires & Werewolves now! [sic]"

To that, many of us would like to reply, “No, I do not want to be a vampire, or a vampire’s bride, or a zombie, *or* a werewolf!” But our obnoxious friend can only increase in Ninja Skill Level or Zombie Shuffle Speed if we reply favorably. Andrew Santos (II) complains, “The same group of people keep sending things over and over again. Are you a pirate, are you a zombie, are you a ninja? It’s the same concept every time.” And he isn’t alone. One of the more well-known groups on the site is simply titled “This has got to stop,” and has almost half a million members. Other groups are frustrated with applications that force you to invite 15 other friends before seeing the results of your “How emo are you?” survey. “I’ve had Facebook for about a month now and I get around 40 emails a day for Facebook application requests. There should be a ‘select all’ and delete button,” says Dennis Trojillo (V). Fortunately, Dennis, there is an “ignore all” button, but you might have to accumulate quite a collection before it appears.

Do your fellow Facebookers a service and stop the madness with the applications. If it is not a dire necessity to show off how evil you are, just take the quiz and then stop when you get to the invitation page. Go back to your own profile, and voilà, your results will show on your mini-feed. You do not have to know what kind of speed racer you really are, and your friends do not care either. Save their sanity and clean up your page. When it comes to the Internet, as the old adage goes, less is more. There is also another alternative: stop taking quizzes via Facebook applications! Instead, go online and google the quiz; it will most likely show up. You can find out which side of the brain you are, and then keep it to yourself.

What many of us love about Facebook is that not only is it safer than MySpace, but also that the profile pages are less of an eyesore and are simpler to use. But now that many more people are adding and creating these applications, contributing to the chaotic bells and whistles plastering most peoples' Facebook pages, it seems as though the day when Facebook turns into MySpace is not far away or, rather, has already passed. A day may come soon when we find ourselves logging into MyFaceSpace, but to keep it sequestered in our nightmares, take care of your friends online the same way you would offline.

A & E

Shazam! Radiohead Brings It Back

By ZACHARY PAGE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

About a year ago, you would be hard pressed to find anybody who knew of Foxy Shazam, never mind somebody who listened to their independently released CD, *The Flamingo Trigger*. Now, in 2008, the members will likely tell you that they are still pretty obscure, but the key difference is that they are now signed to New Weatherman Records, the indie label that has just released their new album *Introducing...* Whether Foxy actually aspires to gain a larger fanbase with this newly minted deal is anyone's guess. Upon listening to their latest release, however, it is pretty noticeable that they are having a great time—regardless of the number of people buying their music.

The 10 tracks on *Introducing...* fly by in a little over a half hour, but each song is so well-developed and unique that you do not even notice it; the short duration only serves to bring the listener back for repeated spins. Although it may take a couple of tries to get into the band's sound and adjust to their genre-hopping, decade-defying audio madness, you will eventually get hooked on their music. The lead vocalist, Eric Sean Nally, is perhaps one of the most enigmatic and

awe-inspiring lead singers to appear in a long time. What he lacks in professional vocal training, he more than makes up for with his excessive charisma and sheer character. In fact, his voice is often what drags you further into the album with each successive listen; sounding a bit like a cross between Modest Mouse's Isaac Brock and an insane church reverend, he screams, croons and stutters while singing his quirky lyrics over the band's captivating musical arrangements. (For a complete experience, you should see the band live, if you get the chance.)

The album presents an eclectic view toward music as we know it today and captures many different styles, often in the same song. From this alone, it is nearly impossible to be unimpressed. While many bands have attempted (and failed) to execute such a daring concept, Foxy Shazam is perhaps the first band to do so successfully. It is downright surprising to see such odd bedfellows as 60's soul, 70's garage rock, 80's new wave and modern-day hardcore exist in such perfect harmony. Their single "A Dangerous Man" comes to mind in particular, with its mix of surf rock and James Bond-styled spy music. The melodies presented here should have the most jaded hipsters humming for weeks, and in no time, the

oddball lyrics about Robin Hood, bull fighters and ghost animals will become ingrained in your memory. For anyone with an interest in original and intense indie rock, Foxy Shazam is the latest on a rather small list of bands you need to know about in 2008.

While Foxy remains relatively unheard of (at least for now), Radiohead has returned to claim their title of "Greatest Band in the World," and for good reason. Despite all the hype about the band's decision to let listeners download their new album for any price (yes, any price), the music on *In Rainbows* (now available in physical CD format) is not to be overshadowed under any circumstances. Upon hearing the record for the first time, it should be clear to any fan that this is the band's best work since 1997's landmark *OK Computer*.

As the title might suggest, *In Rainbows* is a slightly cheerier affair than many of the band's past efforts, but do not be fooled: this is still the highly cynical Radiohead that millions of fans have adored and respected for so many years. Hidden behind the more upbeat and romantic tracks (like the achingly beautiful "Nude") are some of the most pessimistic lyrics that lead singer Thom Yorke has ever whispered into his fans'

ears: "Don't get any big ideas, they're not going to happen."

Radiohead albums have always been praised for their stylistic diversity, and this disc is no different. The record opens with the lightning-fast break beats and jazzy guitar riffs of the foot-stomping "15 Step." The band immediately starts full steam ahead, and the rest of the album shifts with ease from careening, über-distorted post-rock to string-accompanied folk to ambient electronica to haunting piano ballads. It is a positively dizzying listen, yet none of the tracks feel forced. It never feels as if the band is purposely trying to break new ground; they are just so experienced that by now, it comes naturally to them.

Ultimately, the album succeeds not just because of its expansive soundscapes or ever-changing arrangements, but also because this is undeniably the band's strongest and most emotional set of songs ("All I Need" and "Videotape"). Records this incredible do not come along very often, but Radiohead has once again crafted an undeniable classic.

Introducing... by Foxy Shazam: 3.0 GPA Popular, yet professional
In Rainbows by Radiohead: 4.0 GPA Crack Free is the way to be

News from the Arts Wing

By JULIA GALLOGLY, I
STAFF WRITER

There's so much going on in the Boston Latin School Fine Arts Department! This column in the *Argo's* A&E section is meant to inform readers about events, goings-on, and student achievements in music, drama, and art.

- In early January, nineteen Boston Latin School students participated in the Eastern Senior District Music Festival. They rehearsed and performed with the Eastern District Chorus, Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Orchestra. Many BLS students participated in the audition process to play at this festival. We congratulate the hard work of all of the students who auditioned and those who were accepted.
- The musicians who performed well in their auditions for the Eastern

Senior District Music Festival were invited to audition for the All-State Music Festival in April. Four BLS students were accepted to the festival, which includes rehearsals at the Boston Park Plaza and a concert at Symphony Hall. The All-State students were sophomores Sherry Wu (violin) and Gloria Ojimba (string bass), junior Jonathan Frederickson (voice-bass), and senior Albano Berberi (violin). Congratulations!

- Many BLS students auditioned for the Eastern Junior District Music Festival, which will take place in March. Twenty students were accepted to play in the ensembles. We're excited to have such a good representation of BLS students at this festival.
- The Concert Choir, Concert Band, and Concert Orchestra have been working hard to prepare for the MICCA Competition in April. High School music ensembles from throughout Massachusetts will perform for judges and receive awards based on their performance. Good luck to everyone!
- The BLS Big Band recorded three Duke Ellington pieces to send to the Essentially Ellington Competition hosted by Jazz at Lincoln Center. The band hopes to place well in this competition.
- The BLS Big Band played at the Boston Public Schools Jazz Festival in January. The Big Band is

preparing to participate in a series of jazz competitions this winter, including the Berklee High School Jazz Competition and the District and State competitions hosted by the International Association of Jazz Educators.

- Congratulations to jazz pianist senior Jake Sherman for his acceptance to the prestigious Stan Getz/Clifford Brown All-Star combo and the 2008 Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Band. Jake played with the combo at the 2008 IAJE Jazz Convention in Toronto and with the Grammy Jazz Band at festivities for the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.
- Students from the AP and Honors Art classes entered submissions to the Key Exhibit Competition. Some of the artists won a gold or silver key, saw their work displayed at the 2008 Massachusetts Gold and Silver Key Exhibit.
- Several BLS art students sent portfolio submissions to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, hosted by The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Good luck to the participants!
- In January, seventh, eighth and ninth grade theater participants performed *The Idiot's Guide to High School*. The comedy was directed by Chris Campbell-Orrock (II).
- Cast and crew from the BLS Theater Troupe are work-

ing hard to prepare for the High School Drama Guild Competition. This year's production is *Tilt Angel*. Come see the BLS performance on February 28th!

- The BLS Wolftones and Wolfettes are hosting an a cappella concert on April 11th at 7pm! Most proceeds from this event will benefit the BLS STAND club in their work against the genocide in Darfur.
- Mark your calendars for the annual Music Night Concerts at BLS on May 1st and 2nd at 7pm. Ticket proceeds benefit the BLS Home and School Association.
- This year's musical is *The Secret Garden*, the Broadway adaptation of the classic novel. Come see it May 29th - 31st!
- Chamber Night, a concert featuring small ensemble and solo performances will take place on June 12th.



THE UP AND COMING MEMBERS OF THE BLS ARTS DEPARTMENT

MS FERNANDES

Austen Not Lost in Translation

BY MICHELLE HOWARD, IV
& DENISE NGUYEN, II
STAFF WRITER & ASST. A&E EDITOR

Airing from January to April, WGBH's *Masterpiece Theater* is presenting its highly anticipated new series: *The Complete Jane Austen*. The program has been advertised excessively by WGBH, reminding us of the popularity of Austen's novels even today. Although the series began disappointingly, it promises to be a success: a result of some talented new faces playing the heroines, mixed with a few classic adaptations.

The first adaptation, *Persuasion*, stars Sally Hawkins as Anne Elliot and Rupert Penry-Jones as Captain Wentworth. *Persuasion* is the classic story of two lovers separated from one another, only to be united again after several years.



HOT 19TH CENTURY ACTION

The two leads' great acting skills were the best part of the program while I found the rest of the cast, in particular Anne's sister, seemed to be overacting. While very elegantly lit, with period costumes and sets, the cinematography—in particular, the camera angles—was rather unconventional. Instead of pulling the audience into the scene, it left an impression—like the actors—of amateurism. Despite that, the movie had subtleties. The most original aspect of the adaptation was the association of a certain mood with a particular location or piece of music, creating a set of theme. All in all, the episode, while a bit short and more than a bit rushed, felt very true to the tone of the book.

Northanger Abbey (written as a parody of the Gothic Romance, *Jane Eyre*), the second adaptation, was incontrovertibly better than *Persuasion*. While the acting

by the secondary characters was once again a bit forced, it was not nearly as blatantly overdone as in *Persuasion*. It was a pleasant surprise to see that each adaptation had its own unique qualities. The crew did this so well, in fact, that one almost didn't notice that they

even shared the same set. The two young leads, Felicity Jones (as Catherine Morland) and J.J. Feild (as Henry Tilney), stole the show. The chemistry between the two was incredibly natural and pure, which helped carry the romantically conical plot. Furthermore, the transitions between the scenes where Catherine is dreaming herself into the plot of a gothic romance novel and the scenes that she spends in reality (a "polite" British society) was very nicely done with music, costumes and dramatic acting, tied off with cute, yet corny, special effects.

The third installment, *Mansfield Park*, lacked the credibility of *Northanger Abbey*, both in the choice of actors and the overall quality. Billie Piper stars as the quiet Fanny Price, opposite Blake Ritson, who plays Edward Bertram. Price stands apart from all the other Austen heroines because she doesn't possess the wittiness and openness of Catherine Morland (*Northanger Abbey*) or Elizabeth Bennet (*Pride and Prejudice*). Piper only does a decent job of portraying the solemn Fanny, as it seemed out of place for her to be



THEY TOTALLY STOLE THESE FROM NATE EISEMAN'S WARDROBE.

playing such a role. The story line, which involves the heroine falling in love with her cousin, diminished the quality quality of the movie, and gave me the sneaking suspicion that production was sloppily rushed on this installment.

The next episode in *The Complete Jane Austen* is *Miss Austen Regrets*, based on Jane Austen's own life. What it will most likely come down to is how fanciful a story can be woven from the surviving collections of her letters and diaries. The roles in this production will probably be taken from the colorful cast of characters that she has woven into her timeless romance novels.

Despite the shaky start, *The Complete Jane Austen* may just do justice to the renowned works of one of the world's most beloved writers and go out with a bang.

Pulse of the Halls

The Argo is all about voicing the opinions of the Boston Latin School population, so this issue we decided to take our reporting to the hallways. We asked five students five personal questions, and here are their answers.

To submit questions you'd like us to ask next issue, or anything else you'd like to see in the A&E Section, send us an email at blsargo.ae@gmail.com.

Questions

1. What's your favorite piece of clothing?
2. What're you doing for February break?
3. What song did you listen to on your way to school today?
4. What do you think is going to be the next catastrophe after global warming?
5. If you could break any Guinness World Record, what would it be?



Jennifer

1. Light blue, ripped, sun-faded jeans from AE
2. Stay home and going to a party
3. One Republic - "Stop and Stare"
4. Everyone will be sucked into a giant hole in the Earth
5. Make the largest gumball



Erick

1. My thong
2. Partying with Johnny B. in "da club"
3. Alabama 3 - "Woke up this Morning", because I did wake up this morning
4. That Cloverfield monster
5. Swim the furthest.



Neelabh

1. BDG Skinny Jeans
2. Hat Trick
3. 4 Year Strong - "The Take Over"
4. Acid Rain
5. Biggest Jello-filled swimming pool



Brandon

1. Tuxedo
2. Going to North Carolina
3. Rihanna - "Don't Stop the Music"
4. Cancer
5. Longest time in a pink room



Hazel

1. New Red Coat
2. Going to Eastern Europe with FHAO
3. Jimmy Hendrix - "Voodoo Child"
4. We're all going to die.
5. Eat the most sushi.

Spotlight
Korey McIsaac



By Christelle Saintis, I
Contributing Writer

I first met Korey in the eighth grade in art class, where he was one of those friendly class clowns. Today, he is still that goofy kid, but he takes things, especially his art, a bit more seriously.

Those of you who don't know Korey have most likely seen him wandering the halls of Latin School, but you will probably never see him alone. He always seems to have a friend (or two) by his side to walk with him everywhere. Finding people to walk with him in the hallways is no challenge at all, due to his friendly and outgoing disposition. You will probably find him with Christina Giannopoulos, the two laughing hysterically, or scrambling to get to class on time.

Once you get to know Korey, you will learn that he is funny, caring and an extremely talented actor. I have the privilege of working with Korey on the upcoming Guild production of *Tilt Angel*, in which he plays a leading role and is the set designer. Korey is very dedicated to theater, not only having acted, but also having been crew chief and assistant stage manager for various BLS Drama productions. No task is too small for the *mighty* Korey.

One thing many people don't know about Korey is that, over the years, he has acted in several independent films and even a television show. When he acts, he tries to imitate none other than James Marsden (known for his role as Cyclops in the *X-Men* series). He also rants and raves about his favorite movie, *A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints*, an obscure independent film from which I believe he draws inspiration. It is obvious that acting is one of Korey's major strengths, and it is something he plans to continue in college, pursuing a career as a talent agent/representative.

An extremely determined individual, Korey has duly earned the respect of his teachers and fellow classmates. His dedication and oral talents are also visible through his interest in politics and government, evident in Ms. Celia Sweeney's AP Government class, where he shines as an up-and-coming politician. To add even more to his list of achievements in public speaking, Korey is a part of the Mayor's Youth Council, where he takes an active role in the city by planning various events and meetings. He has even made himself a part of the international community, where, as a member of Amnesty International, he has taken great strides to stop the slaughter of thousands of innocent people by giving a hand in last year's extremely successful talent show to benefit efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur.

Throughout all of his amazing experiences in high school and in life, my hope for Korey is that when he gets to the top, he remembers me and gives me a ride.

A & E
Insanely Funny Posse

GPA: 4.0

HARVARD, HERE I COME

By Terry Brown, I
Staff Writer

So, what's the best show on television? *Heroes*? *24*? *CSI*? No, no, and no. HBO's *Entourage* has definitely surpassed all competitors in quality. Its mixture of humor and wit never fails to impress. *Entourage*'s actors are able to make their characters and lifestyles relevant to the viewers—a sure draw-in because it adds a sense of credibility and depth to the show. When most people day-dream about the life they wished they had, chances are their fantasy is similar to the life depicted in *Entourage*.

Entourage portrays the life of Vincent Chase, a movie star, and... his entourage. The crew consists of Vince's brother, Johnny "Drama" Chase, and his two childhood friends, Eric "E" Murphy and Turtle. The show is loosely based on executive producer Mark Wahlberg's early Hollywood career, which might add to the show's general realism. Many of the characters are also based on real people that were, or are currently, prominent figures in Hollywood. For example, Vince's agent, Ari Gold, has a real-life counterpart. He alone is what makes the show what it is, due to the eccentric and juvenile mannerisms that create his notable character. Of course, some of his humorous aspects are greatly aided by the fact that HBO is a premium channel, and therefore does not have to adhere to the same regulations and restrictions as *Heroes* or *CSI*.

Beyond the cast and the writing,



A SCENE FROM THE BEST SHOW ON TELEVISION

Entourage's filming on location is unique and adds to the authenticity. For example, when the episode premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, part of the episode was actually filmed during the festival itself. When the characters were in Las Vegas, so were the actors themselves, who walked through casinos and sat poolside

with the regular patrons. When the fictional crew sat courtside at the Laker's games, a real game was being played and filmed. What makes *Entourage* special is that they try not to have as many fake sets or fake shots of, in this case, actors pretending to play basketball. The effort that the production crew puts in to make their show as real as possible underscores the already wonderful acting on *Entourage*.

Entourage captures everything that comes to mind when the word 'Hollywood' is mentioned. Beautiful girls, expensive cars, fine dining, partying, mansions and movie production are all featured. The show can be noted most for its adult humor and wit, but its storylines can appeal to anyone and everyone. *Entourage* is the total package, and is undeniably the best show on television.

Horoscopes

By Oliver Anderson, I
A&E Editor

Oliver Anderson, the all knowing prophet, has decided to give you a chance to predict your own future. Like the horoscopes every issue, these are also guaranteed to come true. These are MadLib style, so ask your friends to fill in the blank spaces with something from the requested category

WITHOUT SHOWING THE ENTIRE THING TO YOUR FRIEND,

and then read it back to them. It's not guaranteed to entertain, but it is guaranteed to be more interesting than math class.

ARIES
Your day will take a _____
Adjective
turn when _____ punch
Group of People
you in the _____
Body Part

TAURUS
You will be happily surprised when you find out that _____
People Talking Nearby
are really making fun of the person sitting next to you.

GEMINI
_____ will take
Verb Ending in -Ing
on a new meaning when _____
Presidential Candidate
does it, and people think it's cool.

CANCER
_____ will question your
BLS Teacher
reliability when you are late to class because you were playing _____
Type of Poker
with _____
Member of NSYNC

LEO
Being able to _____ for extended periods
Verb
of time won't matter because you just caught _____
Non-Offensive Disease

VIRGO
Why is there a dead _____
Endangered Animal
in your toilet? Good question.

LIBRA
_____ will take a turn for the worse
A(n) Activity
when you _____
Wrestling Move
Gangster Rapper / Friend of Oprah

SCORPIO
You will have a new found respect for literature when _____ buys you a
Author
liter of _____
Refreshing Beverage

SAGITTARIUS
Technology will become your friend when _____, _____,
A Friend of Yours A Friend of Yours
and _____ stop being your
A Friend of Yours
friend.

CAPRICORN
The New York Giants will _____
Crush / Be Humiliated By
The New England Patriots.

AQUARIUS
You will get a taste of Hollywood when, while outside _____
Your Favorite Restaurant
_____ spits in your mouth
Movie Star

PISCES
Don't give up on _____ no matter
Activity
how much _____ hassles you.
Mean Faculty Member

A & E

See This Before You Die: Round 2

By HUNTER BAUM, I
STAFF WRITER

Alright movie watchers, it's time for our second installment of *Movies You Must See Before You Die*. In this edition I am highlighting the great teenage flick—*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. This movie is an American classic from the brilliant director John Hughes (*16 Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*), who was the king of film in the 80's. Matthew Broderick plays the charismatic Ferris Bueller, a high school student who gets away with everything, is liked by everyone and has lots of fun.

He decides to skip school (for the ninth time) and he brings his best friend Cameron (Alan Ruck) and girlfriend Sloane (Mia Sara) along with him for a day in Chicago. The principal of his school, Ed Rooney (Jeffery Jones), is on to him. Ferris also has to watch out for his resentful sister Jeanie (Jennifer Gray), because she is sick of him getting away with everything. The casting was excellent and the acting was great, especially from Broderick and Jones (there is even a cameo later, but I won't tell you who

it is). The three friends spend the day in Cameron's father's beautiful red Ferrari having fun and dodging the principal and parents.

This movie, even though it was made in the 80's, is just as funny today as it was when it came out. It has that John Hughes quality where it seems just as current as anything in theater today. The movie is about those timeless quali-

ties that everyone can relate to, such as boring teachers, wanting to have fun and not taking life too seriously. Along the way, they have lunch at a fancy restaurant, go to a Cubs game and at the same time a whole "Save Ferris" movement occurs because people think Ferris is dying. Of course some of the things that Ferris and his friends do in this movie are a bit hyperbolic, but it's all part of the fun.

On occasion, Ferris talks to the camera and tells the audience how to pretend to be sick or he gives some friendly advice. This movie is full of so many hilarious quotes that it is ridiculous, just the bantering between Ferris and Cameron alone is side-splitting. Ferris is the ideal high school spirit, the class clown who is always two steps ahead of the authority and an inspiration for everyone from kids to adults. This is some of Matthew Broderick's best acting and he will always be Ferris Bueller in my mind. *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* is a fantastic pick-me-up movie because of its carefree attitude and high spirits. Like Ferris says, "Yup, life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and take a look around once in a while, you might miss it."



TAKE A DAY OFF TO WATCH THIS MOVIE. JUST DON'T SAY WE TOLD YOU TO.

Indie Flick Hits Hard

By RACHEL TRIPP, III
STAFF WRITER

Does my hair look okay? Is this sweater too big? How much time do you spend every day thinking about what other people think of you? What if the answer to that question was "none?" For Billy Price, a 15-year-old growing up in Lisbon Falls, Maine, this is the case. On the surface, Billy seems like a normal teenager; he plays guitar, rides his bike around town, goes to school, loves KISS and hangs out at local eateries. But Billy is considered a freak by his peers because of his introverted habits, strange outward appearance and oddball dreams such as wanting to "save a damsel in distress." Billy the Kid, an independent documentary, follows a Billy through his daily life, from sitting on the lawn talking to his mom to his running into a bathroom muttering "death....death!" after embarrassing himself in front of his intended girlfriend.

If a riveting plot and extreme action scenes are what you're looking for, then this movie is not for you. The movie simply follows a 15-year-old around trying to figure out what he's saying and doing and why. But that doesn't mean that this movie is in any way dull. The things Billy says are sometimes carefully precise, and sometimes just unusual; he reminds one of a real-life Napoleon Dynamite. His traits leave him isolated from his peers, inflamed the local bullies and driven him more deeply into a mindset that may or may not conceal more serious psychological problems. Throughout the film, you see that instead of someone with psychological issues, Billy is in fact shockingly self-aware, "You have to be careful with children. You have to be responsible and be sure not to abuse them... It's wrong to hurt women, fake or real, even in video games."

I had the chance to speak with Jen-

nifer Venditti, the film's director, and John Robison, author of *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's*, at the Coolidge Corner Cinema in Brookline. According to the duo, Billy has Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism. Surprisingly, though, the film surprisingly didn't harp on this. It wasn't a documentary about a disease, but a unique character study. My conversation with Venditti and Robinson helped enhance my understanding of the film, its characters, and its message.

Argo: How did you meet Billy? What made you decide to make a documentary about him?"

JV: I'm a casting agent so I was at the school looking for extras and every day I'd see this kid sitting alone. I started

our different stories.

Argo (to John): As a person with Asperger's yourself, how did you view the film?

JR: My point of view is that of Billy. I myself was a misfit like Billy. I personally experienced what you see in the film forty years ago when I was in school. It can be painful to watch. Both my book and this movie share a universal message...everyone seems to think they're a misfit. People who are slightly autistic, like me, can't see the subtle non-verbal communications between people. I only listen to words. I still made my way okay in life, even if I see it somewhat differently.

Argo: Why did you not tell us of Billy's syndrome in the movie? Why did you choose to keep us wondering?

JR: If Billy's condition had been known, the entire perspective of the movie would have changed.

JV: Asperger's is not who these people are, it is just one aspect. They are defined and

limited by their diagnosis. It limits how we see and connect with people. This film is sup-

posed to go beyond all the labels that we as a society put on people, whether it's "freak" or "different". It's about showing the complexities of who we are and not being ashamed of that.

Argo: What advice would you have for young directors?

JV: It's very important to be clear about your intentions. Be clear about what it is you're trying to portray.

Billy is not a geek, a freak or a jock. Billy is unclassifiable. But no matter what Billy is, he is celebrated for it. The film ends with Billy's voiceover saying: "All this time, I thought my brain, my imagination, was the scary place. I realize now that the whole world's the scary place. Life can be a pain in the butt sometimes...but I guess I'm okay with that." This extraordinary film shows that people have value as they truly are—without labels.



BILLY THE SAVANT

asking the kids who he was, what his story was. I was in awe of his openness and his ability not to conform himself to the other children...his voice deserved to be heard.

Argo: How does Billy feel about the movie? Does he like it?

JV: Billy is really proud to share his story. He's showing people who are different that they are not alone. This is a film about struggling to fit in. Everyone struggles to fit in. I really wanted everyone to have that feeling of what it is to be Billy in the world.

Argo: How did you film the movie?

JV: Well for starters, we only had one camera. We didn't have a budget like Juno's...we didn't have a boom. Making an independent film is hard. You try to connect with each other. It's great to share

Spotlight

Maria Weissman



MARIA WEISSMAN (U)

By YING WANG, I
FORUM EDITOR

I notice a blinking tab at the bottom of my screen. It's an IM from none other than Maria Weissman. "I'll talk to her for just a few minutes," I reassure myself, but it's the same story every night. A few minutes always turned into a few hours with her. I have known Maria for a good five years now, but we have never run out of interesting topics to talk about.

The first adjective that comes to mind when I think of Maria is "gifted," especially regarding her musical talents. Even if you don't know Maria on a personal level, you are probably already well acquainted with her exceptional musical abilities. A member of the school's concert choir, show choir, chamber ensemble and football band, Maria has left an indelible mark on the music department with her significant contributions as a talented flutist and singer. Personally, I think she could be the next Kelly Clarkson.

Her continued dedication to the arts isn't confined to the walls of BLS either. Outside of school, Maria spends many of her free afternoons with the Wattertown Flute Ensemble, in which she has participated since eighth grade. Recently, she earned the honor of first chair in the ensemble group, a great achievement in her flutist career. Maria has worked hard to get to her current adept level of musicality. She has sung in choirs since third grade, played the flute since first grade and participated this past summer in the Berklee College of Music Summer Program, where she learned about musical improvisation and technique.

Apart from being one of the most caring individuals I have ever had the pleasure of meeting, Maria is someone I can rely on for anything—even if it's something as basic as telling me the numbers we had to do for math homework or carrying my books while I'm on crutches from a leg injury. Maria is also one of the most upbeat people you will ever meet. Often times you can even catch her cheerfully singing to herself in the hallways of the school or laughing hysterically among a group of friends as she walks to class.

Performing with the various music groups is only one of Maria's various activities. Her true passion is STAND, an anti-genocide club at the Latin School, which she co-founded and for which she currently serves as president. At the beginning of the year she started to raise money by selling T-shirts. Thanks to her initiative, STAND has raised over \$1000 to donate to the Genocide Intervention Network. From the moment you meet Maria, you know that she's going places, and so it is with great sadness and great joy that I part ways with Maria Weissman—my partner in crime and my best friend.

A & E BRIGHTON-ALLSTON

Brown Sugar

BY ELIZABETH KO, II
& RACHEL BANCE, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Are you looking for a low-cost restaurant with a wide selection of Thai food? Are you looking for a restaurant with a pleasant and humble atmosphere and friendly and attentive service?

If these are the things you look for in a dining experience, then Brown Sugar Café located in Brighton (1033 Commonwealth Ave.) will certainly be on your list. While the Comm Ave. location may be a little out of the way for some, the food is well-worth the trek.

As you pass through the doors of the restaurant, you are politely greeted and shown to your table. The Brown Sugar Café lets off a vibe of serenity; you may even say it has a zen-like aura. The cultural Thai artwork and Thai sculptures scattered about the restaurant heighten the dining experience and act as surefire conversation-starters.

Brown Sugar also has an efficient and friendly wait-staff. Water glasses are constantly filled and orders are taken immediately.

All of these are nice touches, but the real reason you should try Brown Sugar is

the food. The menu contains a wide array of choices for every taste. The lunch and dinner menus include rice, curry, noodles, soups, and salads. Our personal favorite is the spicy version of Brown Sugar's Pad Thai (a traditional noodle dish). Some other notable dishes include the Mango Curry, Honey Pork, Pik Pow Fried Rice, and Tamarind Duck. And to help you wash all that good food down is a variety of exotic drinks: Young Coconut Juice, Homemade Limeade, Lychee Juice, Soybean Milk, and even the classic Shirley Temple. This is not to mention the wide selection of teas available as well. Once you've successfully devoured the appetizer and main course, the desert menu is readily offered. We highly recommend the unique Fried Ice Cream, a vanilla ice cream coated in a crispy, sweet shell of dough and topped with honey. Other desserts up for selection are the Thai Coffee Custard, Chilled Rambutan, Sweet Sticky Rice, Fried Banana, and Mango Split, which is decorated with strawberry Pocky Sticks. A vast choice of ice cream is also offered, among which includes tropical flavors such as green tea, mango, ginger, and red bean.

So give your taste buds a treat and give this Brighton hallmark a try.

Fancy Fast Food

BY ROBERT FITZPATRICK, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brighton might not seem like the most interesting place to visit (some of you may not even know that it is a part of Boston) unless you know where to look. In fact, there have recently been two or three notable changes, one being the renovation of fast-food restaurants into new, lavish lounges.

Brighton's local McDonald's has recently been touched by Midas. It was a typical Mickey D's before the paint job and addition of modern lighting and a rectangular bar in the middle of the room. At what other fast-food chain can you sit on a beautiful faux leather seat while waiting for your meal (which, by the way, you ordered by number)? None. Plus, the bathrooms no longer resemble a scene from Saw or The Grudge. That is reason enough to come to Brighton, but there is more....

An additional pizza chain, Papa Gi-

no's, has been added to the the multitude of pizza places already in Brighton. It was built on the site of an old Blockbusters, and the upgrades are similar to those of McDonald's; a brick oven, nice booths and a flat-screen television give the place a more sophisticated appeal. What's more, after you order at the counter, they bring the food to you! And to attract patron customers, they have designated Tuesdays all-you-can-eat-for-six-dollars night to fill your pizza needs.

The local Dunkin' Donuts overlooks Oak Square. The difference between this Dunkin' Donuts and others is that it is also refurbished!

This establishment, which includes a fireplace and a television, attracts many people because it serves as a place for Boston College students to come and relax—unless they bring their work. There is a wireless internet connection, updated menus, top-notch pizzas and, of course, doughnuts to contribute to the homey atmosphere. This is as good as fast-food gets!



BRIGHTON'S OWN "CITGO"

L . A . B .

Co-owned by Kim Harris, Todd MacLeod and Jay Giacoppo, L.A.B. was engendered by the desire to see something different in Boston's relatively reserved fashion. The apparel available at L.A.B. comes from places all over the world that are known for their eclectic taste in fashion. Along with these global imports, L.A.B. is packed with t-shirts and hoodies for men and women by local designers, as well as other jeans and hats. But that's not all. This unique shop also stocks accessories, sew-it-yourself vinyl toys, and holds a small, yet varied, collection of records. The only catch? They come in limited quantities. Blink and you might just miss it! But, you can be sure that no one else will be rocking the same duds as you. Just make sure you have a hefty amount of cash with you. While the store isn't over-the-top expensive, it's not exactly Target, either. Shoppers should be willing to spend a little more for these hard to find threads. If you're

lucky, you'll drop in during one of their sales where the hoodies and T-shirts are available at a great price.

What sets L.A.B. apart is two things: one is that it hosts an extensive collection of street wear for girls compared to other competing stores like Karmaloop and Bodega; the other is that the shop also doubles as an art gallery. There are frequent events held to support the rotating artists who showcase their works at L.A.B. The unique artwork decorates the hospital-like walls, most of them relatively small paintings with captivating messages or visuals. They can be purchased on the spot, and the prices are listed on a clipboard available for your convenience.

The atmosphere of the store is laid back and makes people feel like they can hang out and relax while checking out the products. The windows are lined with comfortable modern white chairs, next to a table covered with magazines you don't

usually find in stores, plus brochures and stickers for upcoming events. It's almost like a hospital waiting room, but cooler. Red Bull is kept in a mini-fridge in the corner for sale, so you can sip along to the blaring rock and techno music as you peruse the racks of hoodies. The small selection of records is organized in crates, with turntables for sampling in the back. You might even be fortunate enough to be there when a DJ is spinning right in the store, which they do on occasion, especially during the events that they host. The employees are also very friendly and ready to answer any of the questions you may have.

L.A.B. is open every day of the week, and closes later during the summer. Finding parking might be rather difficult, but the 57 bus from Kenmore Station will bring you right in front of it. L.A.B. is definitely a shop to check out if you're willing to spare a few bucks for some sweet apparel.

Punjab Palace

BY BEVERLY NGUYEN, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Opened a little over a year ago, the Punjab Palace, located on Brighton Avenue in Allston, is a fantastic new addition to the area's long chain of restaurants. Driving by, it can be hard to spot, since it stands among many other restaurants and bars, but those who do stop by this quaint India restaurant won't be disappointed.

The Punjab Palace is one of the few Indian restaurants in the area and it stands out with its style and authentic cuisine. The outside is clean and fresh, the windows are clear and tinted a bit to give customers some privacy and the inside is even more satisfying. Upon entering, the first thing one will notice is the delicious smell of curry and the Bollywood films being played on the LCD screen near the front. The waiter will bring you to your seat and right away, the comfy atmosphere

and dim, low lights will make you feel at home.

There is a fair selection of appetizers to choose from, along with the bread. There are choices for both vegetarians and for non-vegetarians. The vegetable samosa that I ordered was appetizing enough. It was fresh and hot, and the crispy outside balanced well with the potatoes and peas on the inside. The bread was just as good. There were two types to choose from, tandoori or tava, depending on what was used to cook the bread. The naan, which was cooked on a tandoor, tasted great. It was addictive; you'll keep on wanting more. The poori, cooked on a tava, was more exciting. The bread was leavened to an extreme, and only deflated if you poked a hole through it.

Since Indian cuisine is well-known for its curry, most of the menu consists of curried food, such as chicken, lamb and seafood, all served with Basmati rice at the

low price of \$6.95. There is also a selection of meat-free curry for the vegetarians out there. The spiciness of the curry, which ranges from mild, for the weak of heart, to hot, for those who want a big kick, did not affect the rich, flavorful taste. I tried



IT'S NOT THE TAJ MAHAL, BUT IT'S TASTY REGARDLESS

the delicious lamb bahar, a creamy lamb curry cooked with onions, tomatoes, bell peppers, herbs and spices. The meat was tender and the other ingredients blended

without overpowering one another.

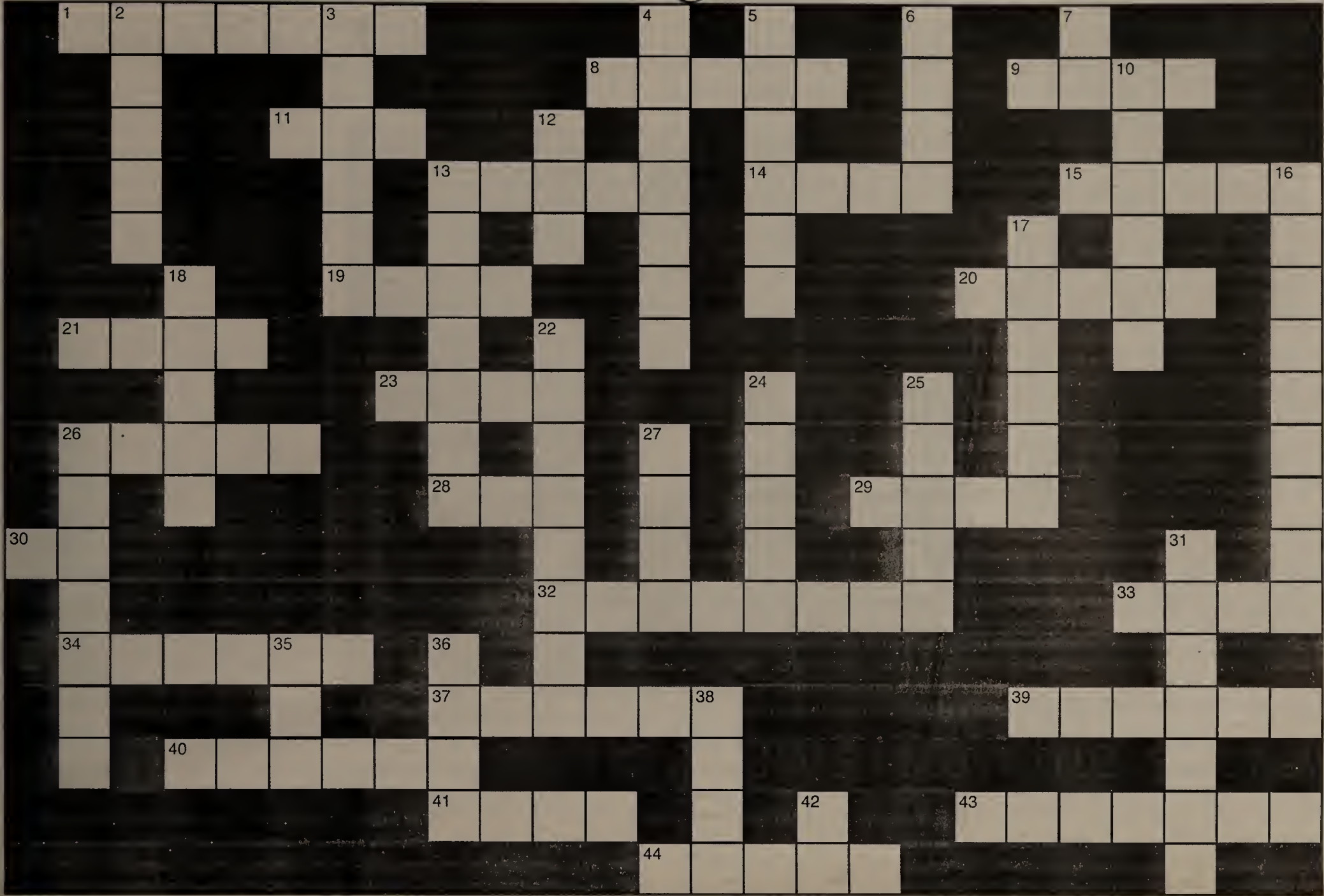
The service was not one to scoff at either; the waiters were nice and friendly, and they made sure that you were comfortable. The food was served quickly, the prices were fair and anything you needed,

like extra sauce, was brought to you. Before leaving, you're given a fantastic dessert of mango ice cream, soft and light enough to leave your mouth with a fresh tingling. Even though the Indian musical playing on the LCD was annoying in the beginning, after a while it got pretty catchy.

The Punjab Palace is a great restaurant for all. Along with sit-down service, they also offer take-out, delivery (for those who do not feel like driving around endlessly for parking) and even catering for parties or a fancy get-together.

THE FUN PAGE

The Official *Argo* Crossword



- Across**

1. Injured Celtics player

8. Former president Bill Clinton plays this kind of saxophone

9. *Argo* BLSTV ad: Nobody wants this for Valentine's day

11. *Futurama* redhead

13. Toothpaste brand

14. "Get on the _____ with Taft!"

15. BLS student anti-genocide coalition

19. A jingle, or an agreement in pitch

20. Name for humans in *Gulliver's Travels*

21. Only line not connected to the Red Line

23. A British chap; a shortened victory cry in chess

26. *I Am Legend* star
28. There are seven of these colored stripes on the US flag

29. Kurt Vonnegut novel *Slaughterhouse _____*

30. Misspelled pastry; commonly rounded to 3.14

32. This former presidential candidate also starred on *Law & Order*

33. Ice precipitation; also what you do to a cab

34. September season

37. Nothing rhymes with this color

39. Recently deceased Australian actor

40. Jeopardy host

41. Popular online auction website

43. This sporting event is on Sunday in Hawaii

44. Capital of Delaware
- Down**

2. The A in FAQ

3. A goal; a department store

4. Not Shut Down, Standby, or Hibernate

5. Popular Huckabee endorser

6. A surgical dressing; also a group of theater performers

7. "A note to follow Sol"

10. YouthCAN's Global Warming Day: Focus the _____

12. Ctrl + Alt + _____

13. Firenze, for example

16. BLS Student Council sponsored tournament

17. *Nanny* on One Tree Hill

18. Time Magazine's Person of the Year (2007)

22. Natalie Portman film: V for _____

24. The Little Prince wanted the narrator to draw this

25. Anthropomorphic Family Guy character

26. Popeye's source of superhuman strength

27. Roman counterpart of Hera; 2007 comedy film

31. *Da Vinci Code* protagonist

35. One of the original Three Stooges

36. SuperBowl Commercial with Balloons

38. Replaced the punt, lira, and the peseta

42. Not you; also the abbreviation for Maine

Sudokus

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BUSINESS Politech

BY CHENGLIN YUAN, II
PHOTO EDITOR

With ever-evolving technology, the old traditions of baby kissing and hand shaking are no longer enough to win an election. Since competition is as fierce as ever and every vote counts, the 2008 presidential candidates are embracing new forms of technology to expand their campaigns to new dimensions. The World Wide Web has become a new battleground for campaigners with the emergence of online debates and the increasing number of independent polls and blogs. This year's elections may have a bigger voter turnout as campaigners target young voters through YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and other social networks. In addition, politicians are using the internet to raise money and intelligence from data mining companies like Acxiom to target individual voters.

Democratic front runners Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama announced their candidacy on the Internet, raised millions of dollars through donations online and participated in the debates co-sponsored by YouTube. The CNN-YouTube debates particularly reached out to young voters by offering them a chance to ask candidates their own questions directly through submitted videos. This allows them to "inject some life into the drab debate format" [source] by presenting intriguing and candid questions such as "Is Senator Obama authentically black enough?" or "Is Senator Clinton satisfactorily feminine?" By presenting questions in this format, the debates are straying away from the norm of candidates answering generic questions with generic answers.

At the same time, MTV and MySpace are teaming up to produce another version of their "Choose or Lose" franchise, which is aimed at helping young viewers connect with the candidates by allowing them to submit questions via cell phone text messages, MySpace entries or instant messages. This is slightly different from the CNN-YouTube debates in that the events are broadcasted on the Web in

real time so the questions are unfiltered. Additionally, users can give instant ratings of the candidates' responses.

Facebook, an online social networking with more than 56 million users, took a different approach in its involvement

ing everyone to give five dollars for his campaign; another highlighted Hilary's affected southern accent when giving her speech in Selma, Alabama. Edwards did not escape ridicule either, when a parody was made of him fixing his hair to the



DID YOUTUBE CATCH EDWARDS RED-HANDED?

with the 2008 presidential campaigns. It partnered up with ABC to combine the most up-to-date campaign news from abcnews.com with the interactive discussions of facebook.com. This allows users to subscribe or join the various political groups available on Facebook. For example, Senator Obama has more than 400,000 members in his group, One Million Strong for Barack. The ultimate goal is to extend the debates on TV to dialogue and interaction between voters on Facebook.

With these new applications of technology, candidates have to prepare for the unexpected. Video parodies of campaigners have sprung up on YouTube while other clips highlight the blunders they had made during speeches. A YouTube clip showed Obama bluntly ask-

song, "I Feel Pretty."

Bloggers and trendy podcasts are also following campaigners' every move. Spending an average of two hours chatting about politics daily, they are a major influence in the outcome of elections. According to the Institute for Politics Democracy and the Internet, these participants who endorse their candidates through websites and discussion boards are seven more times more likely to affect the opinions of their family, friends and colleagues. In the past election, Bush's advisors had even planned strategies to pinpoint and attract these individuals. Blogging isn't the only way the internet is changing campaign strategies. It is now possible for any voter to go online and find a candidate's entire voting record along with past speeches, quotations

and interviews. This makes it harder for presidential hopefuls to hide anything. While this would hopefully lead to more truthful campaigns and candidates, it could also simply backfire by causing long excusatory speeches and answers during debates. It is known, however, that this new transparency has led certain politicians to find new ways to tell constituents what they want to hear.

Politicians are now specifically trying to identify voters who are likely to endorse them. There are several firms that can assist in this, such as Acxiom, the largest data mining company in the world. This company divides the whole population into 70 demographic groups with subcategories based on census data, surveys and information provided from credit card companies and other clients. They are then able to predict each group's interests and actions based on those normally found in these subcategories; this is called narrowcasting. In the 2004 election, John Kerry was able to win Iowa and New Hampshire with the help of the information he had received from Acxiom. With a click of a button, he was able to find the percentage of voters who were likely to vote for him. After finding targeted voters, candidates are able to send specialized emails to them. These emails include information that, based on the voter's demographic group, he or she will find favorable, while leaving out the candidates proposed platforms and policies that may turn the voter away.

With the internet forever revolutionizing the election process, it is evident that candidates and voters alike will have to be technology-savvy. Most states already use electronic voting—with paper trails, of course. But someday, online voting may be possible and even made more secure with voice and fingerprint recognition. It is evident that candidates are reaching out any way they can to try to sway voters. Who knows.... One day, polling booths may become obsolete and we all might be texting our favorite candidate's name to 1-800-VOTE to choose the next president.

The Glitz and Glamour of Lifeguarding

BY EMILY RODIL, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Golden tans. Sitting under an umbrella, sipping some type of fruity drink. These are the typical images that come to most teenagers' minds when asked about why lifeguarding would be a great job to have. Sadly, this is not usually the case. Sure, you can get that perfect tan—if you lifeguard at an outdoor pool or some body of water. Yes, you can sip a fruity drink—while on break. I hate to break your bubble, but lifeguarding is not as glamorous as some of us would like it to be. Don't get me wrong—it is a great job to have. The pay is pretty good for teenagers (usually a few dollars above minimum wage) and if you like working with people, then this may be your true calling in life—but it can indeed be a difficult job. If you like the challenge and are willing to spend most of the day near water, then lifeguarding may be the perfect summer (or year-round) job for you.

In order to become a lifeguard, you must be certified in CPR and Lifeguard Training. If you do not have the qualifications, you will not get the job. But do not fret: the process of going to the instructional class is very easy, and it is offered at various pools all over the city for a reasonable price. The swimming, however,

is not. For most pools, you must be able to swim 500 yards in less than ten minutes, which is no easy feat unless you are a serious swimmer. If you have had no swimming experience, or you do not know what freestyle is, lifeguarding may not be the job for you. After passing this, you are then taught how to rescue all types of drowning victims—active, passive, submerged, etc. This is also not the easiest thing to learn. Being able to handle

a lifeguard float, yourself and the drowning victim takes time to become accustomed to, but most trainers are willing to help you out so that you can pass with your certification. The final qualifying step is a written test involving certain situations in lifeguarding and the different rules



CAN YOU PICTURE YOURSELF IN THIS GUY'S POSTION?

and guidelines you must know. Once you earn your "certs" in the lifeguarding course and the CPR course, you are all set to work.

But you are not done yet. After completing training, you must decide which type of location you would like to lifeguard at. You must be at least 15 in order to lifeguard at lakes, water parks and pools, and 16 to work at a beach. For those of you

who are under the age of 15, you could always work at an indoor pool as an intern, which includes the tasks of cleaning the pool deck and locker rooms. This decision, though, must be made carefully: lifeguards at beaches and other types of open water cannot handle certain situa-

tions the same way lifeguards at a pool do. For (a horrific) example, if a swimmer at your beach jumps off a dock head-first into a rock, taking care of him is much harder than taking care of someone in the same situation at a pool, where there is an edge; it is much harder swimming out in open water with a backboard and swimming back to shore with the man in tow than if he is two lanes over in a pool. Whatever you decide, you should be prepared to make a save at any moment—trust me, it happens more often than you think.

From personal experience, I highly recommend lifeguarding as a job, whether it be year-round or only for the summer. Having worked at the same pool for the past three years, I have come to appreciate moving up the ladder from an intern to a lifeguard and swim coach. Although there are moments when the job can be a bit scary, especially during the summer when everyone is dying to cool off, it is fun to see the same people swim every day and get to know them. The final pro of getting your lifeguard certification is that you are almost guaranteed to find a job, at least for the summer. If you are interested in working at a pool in the city of Boston, contact the Hopeline to register (as long as you are under 18) and good luck in your endeavors!

BUSINESS

Interview with BLS Alum, Mr. Stephen Saber

By **PATRICK LI, I**
BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Last issue, we learned about Boston Latin School alumnus Charles Longfield and how he benefited from his experience here. This time, I interviewed another successful alumnus, Stephen Saber. After college, both went on to head thriving companies. Although in different professions, they believe in working hard and never giving up. Saber, however, also offers some differing insights and suggestions.

Can you describe your current job?

I am currently president of Cross-Tech Group, which consists of CrossTech Media and CrossTech Partners. Our organization focuses on the application of “Second Circle Technologies” (innovative, leading-edge technologies which are right now becoming mainstream and changing the ways that organizations operate and communicate), providing education, training and services. Our media organization operates 27 trade conferences a year, over 20 online programs and a semi-monthly online newsletter. Our services company focuses on mid-market companies and organizations, helping them to grow, in-

novate and compete.

What was your experience at BLS like?

Overall, very positive. The diversity of the school, as well as its focus on learning and bettering one’s self became an important part of the drive that helped in building an organization.

Has graduating from Boston Latin School benefited you in your job?

Yes—but not as much as it could have. BLS has an amazing network which is incredibly beneficial in business. I have learned over the years the benefit of a network as a foundation for collaboration, working together and mutual professional respect. When you meet someone in the business world who also has roots at BLS, an immediate bond is created and a working relationship becomes that much easier to create and foster. Looking back, I wish someone had stressed that to me more in my youth such that I could have used it more to my advantage as I began and developed the organization.

What course at BLS benefited you the most in your career?

Strangely enough—a physics course

I took. And not for the physics. It taught me how to break down a problem into its pieces and solve each piece, thereby solving the problem. In essence, it taught me that at its core, every problem was solvable and it was just a matter of thinking it through, parsing it out and working it through.

Is there any one skill that you’ve acquired from BLS that you apply to your current job?

To never give up and always try and take risks. Sounds clichéd for sure—but it is at the heart of any successful startup and business venture. I have met so many people with great ideas and huge dreams, but too risk-averse to try. BLS taught me (and a lot of people) that no matter where you came from or who you were, everything was possible if you tried and were willing to work at it and take the risk.

What advice can you give to current BLS students?

1. Learn what is out there and available to you professionally. To this day, I am learning new and different career paths that could have been available to me, but that I was never aware of. During your

time at BLS, try to bring in lots of different people [who] can explain and show all of the different career opportunities that are possible.

2. Take risks; success only comes after risks are taken. Find an opportunity and go for it. Don’t over-plan or over-think; grab at it.

3. Be flexible. If you are open to what is possible and willing to take a risk, you will find success. Our business has changed names and changed focus many times since our inception and is nothing like what it was when we originally thought it up.

4. It is never too early to start. Many people say learn on someone else’s dime before starting something on your own. In theory, I would agree. However, in practice, the longer you want to take the risk, the more risk-averse you become and the more likely you are to never take the risk.

So no matter what profession you are going into, try to keep these tips in mind. And for any of you who cannot stand a class or cannot figure out why you have to take it, at least now you know that it could come in handy someday.. Maybe.

How to Buy Your First Laptop

By **JOHN FLANAGAN**
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Graduating seniors, you are basically done. And I’m not talking about schoolwork: I am referring to money. You have already paid the College Board for your SATs and your AP exams. You have paid colleges their application fees. You may have even paid your prom expenses. But looking forward, there is still one big investment that you need to make before stepping into your first lecture at college. You need to buy a laptop. There are so many different laptops out there with so many different features and functions that you might not know where to start. Here is a guide that may help you find the laptop that best suits you (or at least gets you through freshman year).

upgrade your hard drive speed from the standard 5400 rpm to 5700 rpm.

Screen:

As far as screen size goes, it is completely a matter of preference. You most certainly do not need a high-definition screen, but if you are so inclined, Dell offers them in their Inspiron line of notebooks. If it is possible, look for LED backlit LCD screens; they are brighter and they use less battery power—you will realize how important battery life is once have your laptop.

Optical Drive:

Go with a CD/DVD burner. If you get a high-definition screen, make sure you get a Blu-Ray or HD DVD drive so, you know, you can actually make use of that screen. (I recommend Blu-Ray, by the way.)

Battery:

As far as the battery goes, you will probably have the option of 6 or 9 cell; go with the latter. Trust me.

Operating System: Vista/Leopard

With the old faithful Windows XP being phased out, you may choose to upgrade your Windows operating system to Vista or make the jump to a Mac and try out their new OS X: Leopard. There are currently six different forms of Windows Vista, with more surely on the way. If you are going to go the Windows route, you should consider either the Ultimate or Home Premium packages. There has been a lot of talk about the two new operating systems; from what I gather, Vista is essentially a glossed-over version of XP, with a few changes thrown in for the sake of change. The rating from compiled Vista reviews seems to be in the mediocre to average range.

On the other hand, Apple’s new OS X 10.5 Leopard includes some new features that are “fun and functional.” Additions like Time Machine and Spaces allow you to organize your work and make sure it does not get lost, while iChat, iTunes and other “iAccessories” threaten the likelihood of getting any work done. Although both Vista and Leopard have gadgets and

widgets respectively, the functionality of Spaces and the user-friendliness of Time Machine for backing up data tip things in Leopard’s favor. Ultimately, it is a matter of preference.

Recommendations:

If you are thinking of getting a Macbook or a Macbook Pro, you should wait until the last possible minute. Apple is probably going to update them to look more like their new iPods and the new Macbook Air (brushed aluminum and LED lit screens). And if you are thinking about getting a Macbook Air... Don’t. It

does not have a CD/DVD drive, which will not be practical for a few more years. Also, the whole thing needs to be sent to Apple just to replace the battery. As for PC users, you really cannot go wrong with a Dell Inspiron or XPS with the aforementioned configurations. HP and Toshiba are always good brands, too. Just remember, do not settle for anything less than the specs above. Unless you are rich, this laptop is going to have to last you a couple of years; with new models coming out every few months, why would you buy something that is already going out of date?

THE ROOTS OF LIFE

The members and friends of the Caribbean Club request your prescence at our First Annual Carribean Night entitled,

The North American Diaspora. Come learn how the seed of independence was carried from Boston, Massachusetts, to the isle of Saint Domingue (Haiti). understand why President John Adams negotiated a treaty of commerce with toussaint l'Overture. see how the spirit of republicanism and liberty in north America thwarted Napoleon Bonaparte’s efforts for a rekindled French empire in the Americas. Understand the context of the sale of the Louisiana territory to the United States. Let us take a fresh look at the other North America nestled in he beautiful waters of the Carribean Sea. Explore and share the unique culture shaped by three continents, a true new world.

Please, Join Us

Friday
March 7, 2008
at 6:00pm

Tickets can only be purchased in advance, for \$5.00.

See either Kevin Baptista HR 317, Kaela Feliz HR 335, or Felicco Toney HR 331.

SPORTS

Boys' Basketball

BY ANDREW DESTEFANO, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With expectations at an all-time high, the Boston Latin School boys' basketball team, led by Head Coach Brendan Smith, clinched its second straight Dual County League title with a 92-75 win over Newton South on February 8. Although the Wolfpack saw some early-season heartbreak, losing both games to rival Catholic Memorial and losing by 24 points to co-DCL champion Bedford, goal number one has been accomplished. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, the Wolf's den will not be the only home court in Massachusetts to proclaim its team DCL champions. For some ungodly reason, the DCL decided to break up the league into DCL Big and DCL Small this year to accommodate the new teams heading into the conference. Nevertheless, the team has played cohesively and consistently all year and finally seems to be fully healthy heading into the state tournament.

Tri-Captain Dylan Considine (I) has been on the shelf with a bad back since the beginning of the season, but returned in Latin School's DCL-clinching victory over Newton South. "Although he only played for 20 minutes, he looked quick and his defense and ball-handling were excellent for someone who has been out for months," says Captain Chidozie Ibeabuchi (I). Hopefully, Considine can provide Latin with an extra ball-handling and free-throw shooting option in the fourth quarter of the tournament games.

If Latin has any aspirations of going further than the second round in the state tournament, the level of intensity on defense will have to reach an all-time high. DCL MVP candidate Christian Onouha (II) has brought a Kevin Garnett-esque presence to the Wolfpack's interior defense. If there were a statistic for the number of times a block caused the home crowd to stand up and scream "OOOHHHH" (in fact, why isn't there? ESPN, get on this), Onouha would lead the league.

No matter how Boston Latin finishes in the state tournament, one bright spot from this season will never diminish.

Point guard Robbie Walton (I) has taken his game to the next level during his final year here in the hallowed halls of the Latin School. He has displayed a well-rounded offensive attack, equipped with a deadly 3-point shot and some of the quickest hands I've ever seen. If Onouha is the Garnett of the Wolfpack, then Walton is the Rajon Rondo/Paul Pierce hybrid, who should be considered the front-runner for MVP this season.

Now, usually I use this part of my article to implore the members of Boston Latin to come and support the troops at home game. But this time my words are for the members of the team itself. Life as a Boston sports fan could not be bleaker. I (and many others around me) just spent a week depressed over the Pats failing to complete the perfect season



BLS TIPS OFF VS. BEDFORD

while also accepting the fact that New York fans will have plenty of trash talk for years to come. Therefore, boys, we need something to get excited about. A long run into the state tournament would not only let us forget about how terrible it is to be a Boston sports fan at this point in time, it would also cement your position in history. No matter what happens during the rest of your high school career and beyond, you would always be able to look back on a banner that proclaimed your team Sectional Champions or finalists or anything with great pride. Boys, when you are on the brink of collapse during practice or it seems that the refs are once again trying to screw you over, remember the shot at pride and glory you have this year.

In one last attempt to psych everyone up for the tournament, I will leave you with wise words from the legend himself, Shane Falco: "Pain heals. Chicks dig scars. Glory... lasts forever."

Girls' Hockey

BY ANDREW LAWRENCE, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It's winter once again, and we all know what that means: the BLS Girls Hockey Team is dominating the Dual County League once again, and is well on their way to achieving the ultimate goal of winning the state championship.

Off to a strong start with a record of 10-2-1 matched up against many of the best teams in the state, including defending State Champions Austin Prep, and the best team in the state—Arlington Catholic. Currently sitting atop the DCL with that outstanding record, the team clinched the league title last week with a win over Lincoln/Sudbury.

Although the girls hockey team has been very successful for a long time, most of these girls have the ability to remain humble about their record, and always contribute their success to teamwork, practicing hard and listening to their coaches. Senior Captain Anne-Marie Elvin (I) makes sure to give credit where credit is due, saying "I attribute our success to our dedication to the team, because our practices are very competitive and we push each other to excel on a day-to-day basis." This philosophy calls for great competition amongst players, and is one of the teams' keys to their success.

The team knows how important their chemistry is, and Assistant Captain Tiana Tassinari (I) says "good defense, goal-tending, hard work, and chemistry are why we're so successful." Tiana continued by saying "not only are we a strong unit on the ice, we help each other off the ice as well. We're like a winter family." Many members of the team have interesting insights, yet they all agree that team chemistry is one of the most important factors to their success. Brigitte "Exquisite" Nee (V) says that "the team is like

peanut butter, jelly, ham, mayonnaise, and mustard." An interesting comparison, to say the least, but she definitely gets the message across. Brigitte continued by saying "it's an interesting combination, and no one would really think about how good it actually is."

Being one of the most successful and respected teams in the school, the Girls hockey team undoubtedly has some of the best fans as well. For all of the fans that come to their games, and support them throughout the season, Junior forward Alcna Wolfink (II) sums up the impact of the fan base very well: "the



BLS BATTLES IN A HEATED DCL MATCH-UP

fans are amazing! They love us, are really loud, organize bake sales to help make money for us, and have even made pins with all of our names on them to show their support!"

The members of the team know how lucky they are to have such a strong fan base, and although many of the fans are family members, there is always a huge turnout of student fans as well. One Wolfpack Superfan, John Henry Co-

hen (I), particularly enjoys the success of the hockey team: "BLS Hockey breeds legends; they are to the Dual County League what the Spartans were to the ancient Greek world, they breed their members into greatness, and have achieved greatness." It is nice to see such strong enthusiasm amongst fellow students at BLS, and to see them show their support for one of the school's most notable teams. With senior captains and perennial Dual County League All-Stars Ann-Marie Elvin (I) and Kathleen Roche (I), and assistant captains Jayme DeFlurin, Katherine Pavone, and Tiana Tassinari leading the way throughout the rest of the season, the team has a strong core of seasoned players take them to the playoffs.

Memphis Leads the Way in College Hoops

BY SANCHAY JAIN, III
STAFF WRITER

It's the time of the year that every college basketball enthusiast waits for. February has begun, and with each passing day, we get one step closer to the grandest of stages: the NCAA Basketball Tournament. March Madness will soon be arriving, and with it, a chance for us to flex our brain muscles as we take guesses on who will come out on top in the 65-team, single elimination tournament.

The season started with several unbeaten teams, including UCLA, UNC, Memphis and Kansas, among a few others. This trend remained until well into January when some of those teams began to fall, which left only one unbeaten team in Division I: Memphis. Meanwhile, several teams have remained with one loss, including Kansas and ACC powerhouse Duke (who recently defeated conference opponent and perennial title contender UNC on the road). With the upcoming

Conference tournaments fast arriving to determine the automatic bids for the March Madness tournaments, events such as rivalry week will bring the competition to intense levels and lead to an exciting couple of months of basketball.

While many people will be looking at top contenders such as Memphis, UNC, Duke, UCLA, Kansas and Tennessee to make big statements come tournament time, several underdogs will be looking to sneak up on the top teams, and possibly cause a few upsets along the way. One of these teams is USC, who made a big splash late last season when they picked up highly touted high school senior O.J. Mayo. Mayo has averaged 20 points a game while the team has overcome some early slumps and disappointing play to emerge as a fairly competitive team. They could manage to sneak into the tournament and create havoc. Meanwhile, UConn no longer has the all star recruits as it once did, but is still a force to be reckoned with, thanks to the lead-

ership of Coach Jim Calhoun. Despite playing in a tough Big East Conference, the Huskies are still in the thick of things and should make it into the Tournament, where Calhoun's presence on the sideline could turn the tide in several games, as should the presence of monstrous center Hasheem Thabeet.

While these two teams play in two of the most chaotic divisions in the NCAA (Big East and Pac 10), a division we should look at is the now notorious Colonial Athletic Conference, the one which produced Cinderella George Mason and then followed up with Virginia Commonwealth, who upset Duke last year to enter the Sweet Sixteen. Both teams are in prime form again this year, but now even College of William & Mary has risen up; it could be their year to mount a historic run.

While Mayo has developed over the season, another freshman sensation has taken the nation by storm. Kansas State freshman Michael Beasley has been aver-

aging 24.8 points and 12.2 rebounds, and has led his Kansas State team to an upset victory of Kansas, who, up to that point, had been undefeated. Meanwhile, Tyler Hansborough has taken the Tar Heels to where they currently are, averaging nearly 10 boards and 20 points per contest. An impressive, big man has been Memphis' Joey Dorsey, who has been compared to NBA star Ben Wallace. If several of these players decide to turn pro, we could have a very deep NBA draft.

Now it's time for me to make my pick (even though it may be about one month too soon). Although Memphis is undefeated at this point, and might enter the tournament as so, I've jumped out onto a very dangerous limb, and have decided to predict that Kansas will be the National Champs. The Jayhawks have a deep roster, including Mario Chalmers, Brandon Rush, and Darrell Arthur. Their depth and versatility is quite impressive, and appear to be sure-fire locks to win the NCAA Tournament.

SPORTS

Celtics Primed for Title Run

BY MARSHALL CALDERA, II
STAFF WRITER

For Boston sports fans, the week of February 3 was hardly one of extreme happiness, to say the least. As you might have guessed, that was the awkward week following the Super Bowl and also the very same week before pitchers and catchers report to Fort Myers. With both of our beloved teams out of action, there's just nothing to look forward to, and no decent local team to watch. This year, before you start looking to see how Schilling's velocity is doing, you can entertain yourself by watching the "Boston Three Party" (and the rest of the Celtics).

While many expected an improvement from last year's team, not many expected *this* kind of start out of the C's. They have surged to an impressive 36-8 record thus far—so impressive that many fans have started panicking when they lose two games in a row. The "Three Amigos" have been widely advertised; though, as of late, Allen has been sick, and Garnett has had a minor abdominal strain. And then there's reason to worry about guard Rajon Rondo. He's been racking up plenty of nicks and bruises this season, especially from big centers like Dwight Howard.

The team's biggest strength is in the

starting lineup. They, as a whole, play every aspect of the game better than last year's squad. Perkins has been playing great, and Garnett has made one of the biggest impacts as a post player that the NBA

has seen in a long time (spare Duncan and Shaq in their prime). Showing his versatility on both the defense and offense, he really has it all and has been great to watch. Meanwhile, Allen and Pierce have both been very good, but somewhat inconsistent as they still try to mesh together. Rondo has improved greatly from last season and seems to be the

perfect point guard for this sys-

tem, as he penetrates well, knows this offense inside and out, has shown great playmaking abilities and knows how to take a hit.

One of the bigger surprises, if not the biggest, has been the play of the bench, which was seen as our weakness coming in. House and Posey are coming up huge and are already passing expectations. Powe is also a big contributor and he's been great since Coach Rivers has been giving him minutes, and Glen Davis

has played well in limited action. One of the more impressive stories is how quickly Allen has gotten back into form and how much he can still improve. The only real

question right now on this team is point guard depth, which could be solved if we acquire the experienced Sam Cassel.

As far as the playoffs are concerned, it would be very difficult to advance against

Detroit in a 7-game series. They just seem to have the chemistry and experience that we lack, in addition to superior coaching; but if we do have those key components, it would not look good for the Spurs, as they are showing their age. New Orleans, however, is the team to watch, as they're very solid all around. Chandler might be one of the most underrated players in the league, and Paul is one of the better point guards since Stockton. The Celtics match up well with them, but the only way they can beat them is if Doc implements some system to defend their pick and roll, because they do it better than anyone in the NBA.

The team has looked solid all season, and its only downfall, aside from injuries, could come from Doc Rivers lack of coaching ability. Ainge's masterpiece has lived up to the hype, and should continue to get the attention it has earned. So, after you take a couple of well-deserved days off to reflect on the Pat's final game, you can pay full attention to your Boston Celtics.



RONDO KICKS IT OUTSIDE VS. BOBCATS

NFL Draft Preview

BY MIKE RAMBO, I
STAFF WRITER

The Senior Bowl has come and gone, and it's time for an NFL draft big board—a list of the 25 best prospects in this year's NFL draft, ordered by how effective I believe that they will become in the NFL, not how they will be taken in this April's draft.

1 Glenn Dorsey / DT / Louisiana State

Big, strong, fast. Great nose for the ball, good tackler. Projects best as a 4-3 defensive tackle in the mold of a Warren Sapp.

2 Chris Long / DE / Virginia

Big, strong, fast. Great pass rush moves, good tackler. Projects as a right end in either a 4-3 or 3-4 scheme. GMs also can't help but be confident in his Hall of Fame Pedigree (Son of Howie Long).

3 Matt Ryan / Q / Boston College
Ryan fits the mold as a great quarterback in today's NFL; he has a very strong arm, good accuracy and evades the rush well. He is poised under crunch-time pressure, a great team leader, and perhaps, most importantly, a true field general who can always make the right read. Often carried too much of the load at BC and forced a lot of passes to below average wide receivers and subsequently threw too many interceptions. Ryan could be a franchise quarterback for a decade if he can avoid this problem in the NFL.

4 Sedrick Ellis / DT / Southern California

Big, strong, fast. Great nose for the ball, good tackler. Ellis may be more versatile than Dorsey; he can play effectively in either a 3-4 or 4-3 scheme. Was unblockable during this year's Senior Bowl.

5 Darren McFadden / RB / Arkansas

Great size and speed, very strong upper body, no serious durability issues, solid hands out of the backfield. But his upright running style may become a problem at the next level.

6 Jake Long / OT / Michigan

Very strong, quick feet, long arms, good knee bend. Projects as a left tackle.

Long is bigger than Clady and served as a backside protector against better players in the Big 10.

7 Aquib Talib / CB / Kansas

Quick, good hands, great athlete, good size, physical, versatile—played on both sides of the ball for a surprising Kansas team. And, of course, he has the most entertaining name of any player in the draft.

8 Ryan Clady / OT / Boise State

Very strong, quick feet, long arms, good knee bend. Projects as a left tackle.

9 K e n n y Phillips / Safety / Miami

Very skilled player with only average size, but has all of the athletic gifts necessary to be a great player in his position.

10 Malcolm Kelly / WR / Oklahoma

Tall, good hands. Has been hampered by inconsistent quarterback play, but has shown great playmaking ability.

11 D e S e a n Jackson / WR / California

Quick, elusive with the ball in his hands. Has the skills to be a good deep threat and a great kick returner at the next level, but is perhaps too small to take many hits from NFL defenders.

12 Michael Jenkins / CB / Southern Florida

Athletic, physical corner who has the size to play in the NFL, and performed well in this year's Senior Bowl.

13 Vernon Gholston / DE / Ohio State

Good pass rusher. Lacks some of

the necessary size to play defensive end at the next level.

14 Rashard Mendenhall / RB / Illinois

Great speed and agility, better than McFadden catching passes out of the backfield.

15 Jeff Otah / OT / Pittsburgh

Has the height, speed, weight and strength to be an effective left tackle at



CHRIS LONG ABOUT TO BRING DOWN A DUKE BLUE DEVIL

the next level, but isn't as good as a pass blocker as Long or Clady.

16 Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie / CB / Tennessee State

Big, physical, great leaping ability. Some question marks because he played in Division II. But he could move up considerably with a good 40 time at the scouting combine.

17 Antoine Cason / CB / Arizona

Great coverage skills and size. His speed is somewhat of a concern, but if he runs a good time in the 40 at the combine,

then he, like Rodgers-Cromartie, would skyrocket up draft boards.

18 Leodis McLevin / CB / Troy

McLevin is a quick defender and a solid kick returner. He increased his profile noticeably at the Senior Bowl.

19 Quentin Groves / DE / Auburn

Fastest defensive end in the draft. Like Gholston, may be too small to play defensive end in the NFL, and has also been hampered by injury problems.

20 Derrick Harvey / DE / Florida

Harvey is an explosive edge pass rusher. He has the burst to make game-changing plays from the outside, but like many other defensive ends in this draft, he is a little lighter than he needs to be.

21 Jonathan Stewart / RB / Oregon

Stewart may be a shorter back, but he has the strength to be an effective runner between the tackles.

22 Gosder Cherilus / OT / Boston College

Big, long arms, quick, strong, but doesn't bend his knees well. It makes him a more of an effective run blocker, so he projects as a better right tackle. It should be noted that the Massachusetts native was the best performer at the Senior Bowl outside of Sedrick Ellis.

23 Wesley Woodyard / LB / Kentucky

Good quickness and size to play outside linebacker at the next level. Made great strides in the Senior Bowl.

24 Brian Bhrom / QB / Louisville

The Lefty was the top-rated quarterback in this class coming out of high school, and much of his potential has been largely left untapped. Bhrom is the most polished quarterback after Matt Ryan. His biggest weakness is his arm strength.

25 Andre Woodson / QB / Kentucky

Woodson may have played his way out of the first round at the Senior Bowl, but I still like his skills. Woodson played at the highest level of competition in the SEC and even notched an overtime win against national champion LSU. Woodson's biggest flaw is his slow release, which allows defenders to intercept an inordinate number of his passes.

Spotlight

Ann-Marie Elvin



ANN-MARIE ELVIN (1)

BY KATHLEEN ROCHE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ann-Marie Elvin. Everyone knows who she is. Whether you have had a random encounter with her among friends and seen her hold an in-depth conversation with a complete stranger or you have had a class with her where you saw her showcased her superb intelligence or if you are a good friend of hers and have received one of her famous homemade cakes on your birthday, you know her name. Ann-Marie was recently voted most well-rounded of the Class of 2008, and with her 4.2 GPA, friendly demeanor and her amazing athletic ability, I would say job well done to all you voters out there.

What most people know about Ann-Marie is that she is extremely bright, both in terms of book smarts and street smarts! They know that she was an all-scholastic hockey player last year for both *The Boston Globe* and *The Herald*, that she is a four-time DCL All-Star and that she played on the U-17 U.S. national team over the summer. They know that she was the number one recruit for Division I girls' college hockey. They know that she applied only to one school, Princeton University, where she was accepted and will be attending as a full-time student and athlete in the fall of 2008. They know that if she isn't in class during the day, she can be found socializing with the entire guidance department, hanging out with Gio or chatting it up with the nurses. (She is rarely seen with Ms. Barbara McLean in the library... No surprise.) They also know that Ann-Marie was inducted into the National Honor Society in the first round. As for those of you who are not included in the "they" category, you know now.

But you don't know everything about this talented athlete/student/friend. You probably don't know that a few of her nicknames are AnnieM and Annbag or that you can tell the mood she's in and how she's going to play by the way she says the number two in our count off (although most of the time her bad game is everyone else's best game).

I have been playing hockey with Ann-Marie since I was seven years old. We learned to skate together. We played on our first travel team together. I will never forget the day when both of us lined up for the face-off of our first high school hockey game together. And now we are captains together. We have changed significantly throughout the years, and Ann-Marie has become a friend and teammate whom I know I can count on. All of you athletes out there know that this means a lot in a close game where it's all on the line, and the rest of you know that these are the things that you look for in a good friend. It hasn't been all peaches and roses for all 11 years, but at the end of the day we always remember that we're on the same team and that we want the same thing: we want to win and we are willing to do anything to make that happen.

I'd like to end this heartfelt passage with a quote from my favorite movie, *Green Street Hooligans*: "It's not knowing that your friends have your back; it's knowing that you have your friends' back." So Ann-Marie, I have your back. Good luck at Princeton.

SPORTS

Which Big Man Has Had a More Significant Effect on His Team?

Moss



LANDOFFPATRIOTS.COM

BY JONATHAN AIELLO, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Who is your Superfreak? Mine is Randy Moss, and for all the right reasons. Put aside the minimal and entirely uninteresting legal issues, and you have one of the very best receivers in the NFL, even after 10 years pro. Back in his prime, he was one of the best after-the-catch receivers (see the Moss 90-yard touchdown run vs. Navy with Marshall). But was he an even bigger influence than Kevin Garnett with the Celtics? Yes. Even though Moss was just a ridiculous addition to the already ridiculous Patriots—they got even better!

Moss came here to make a great team even better, taking a pay cut and making a special deal in his contract so he could still fit into the salary cap. With the off-season pickups of Dante Stallworth and Wes Welker in addition to Moss, our receiving core exploded with talent. Welker, coming from Miami, set a team record for most receptions in a single season by a single receiver. How could any team defend against Moss while eliminating the running duo of Laurence Maroney and Sammy Morris (although they got injured early and were replaced by Kevin Faulk)? And then make sure that the best passer in the NFL wouldn't have the chances to throw down to Welker, Benjamin Watson, Stallworth and Faulk coming out of the back-field? Well they really couldn't, and early in the regular season this was evident. They scored an average of 41 PPG in their first eight games!

Obviously Moss helped with the scoring by grabbing incredible passes in the end-zone; but when he wasn't pulling down TDs, he was pulling defenders away from plays, opening up huge spaces for the other players and splitting the defense. He and Tom Brady broke NFL records, with Moss pulling down 23 TDs and Brady chucking 50 in the regular season. When a receiver has such a tremendous season as to break the record of Jerry Rice and a quarterback breaking the "Golden Boy" Peyton's record, you may just want to look back at the whole thing. It wasn't until later in the season that the opposing team's defenses finally figured out a way to trim down the power of this offense, but not by much since they still averaged 32 PPG in the last eight regular season games. Now, I can't say it was all Moss, but he was a big factor in going 16-0 in the regular season. Giving Brady a strong wide-out like Moss was just always what the doctor had ordered. What Brady could accomplish without big D-linemen in his face is truly unreal.

The concerns about Moss's potential behavioral problems (re: "Straight Cash Homie") were quickly squashed when he adopted the Patriot player attitude instantly, which now seems to be a common occurrence with a similar Corey Dillon turnaround happening not long ago. Now the postseason may be somewhat of a misleading factor into how great of a player Moss really is; Moss's lack of receptions was due to a change in defensive scheme where double coverage or a safety sitting-over-the-top was required to eliminate the threat of massive Brady Bombs. This led to fewer D-backs hanging out in the middle to stop Maroney, who had a great postseason.

The fact that a team could go 18-1 in an entire season in spite of the pro-defensive new rules put into place to try and stop that just blows me away. Moss made it all possible for the Patriots. Just wait until next season. Moss isn't going to go anywhere, and by next February, we will be walking down the street right beside the Perfect Patriots Parade. Carrying a team toward a near-perfect season and setting seemingly untouchable records clearly place him as the top addition in Boston sports this year.

Garnett



APCOM

BY GRAHAM THOMPSON, I
STAFF WRITER

2007 was an incredible year for the Boston sports teams: not a single team was totally out of the running for its respective championship. The Red Sox managed to pull off a victory, the New England Revolution and the Patriots both came extremely close, the BC Eagles were a top 5 team for a few weeks, and we all know the Celtics have the best record in the NBA right now. (Yes, I left out the Bruins. They're solid and possibly playoff-worthy, but won't get past the first round.) The amazing thing about this year is how radically some of the teams have changed. The Celtics are the prime example of this, as they went from one of the very worst teams last year to arguably the best team around this year. What made the difference? Two words—Kevin Garnett.

Garnett has had an utterly profound impact on the once-pathetic Celtics—far more so than any other player has for a sports team. While the twelve year veteran is putting up numbers that make most green with envy (averaging 19.2 points per game and 10 rebounds), his biggest effect has been off the court and on the sidelines. While Garnett has been a star most of his life, including playing for the US Olympic team, he has never been a self-obsessed player like Kobe Bryant. For Garnett, it's all about the team. That attitude has made him a natural leader on the court, supporting the younger players and getting genuinely pumped up for every game, whether he's playing or not.

That seems like such a simple thing, but it makes a huge difference. The Celtics' bench has steadily improved over the year, and now the team doesn't have to rely on only the "Big Three" to win. A lot of that comes from the support and enthusiasm of veterans like KG. He can motivate the players to new heights, bringing out the talent in players like Tony Allen, Glen Davis, and James Posey. The change in the reserve players is not solely due to KG, but his constructive presence has banded the team closer together than a superstar like Kobe could have.

Obviously, much of the team's success is due to the fact the "Big Three" are ripping through opponents like crazy. Yet, two new players, even ones as skilled as Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett, would have had a hard time turning the team around if all they did was play. Kevin Garnett puts his heart and soul into every game. His love for basketball shows every time he takes to the court. If you've ever seen him on the sidelines, no matter what the score is, he'll still be shouting for his teammates and praising their efforts. His professional attitude helps the team as well. With KG, there is no fooling, bragging, or headline news off the court—only a respectful and controlled attitude, making sure that he doesn't cause problems for his team. With all the superstars and attention-hungry players in the league, Garnett's calm dignity off the court provides an incredible role model for the younger players on the team. His experience helps bridge the gap between the young and veteran talents on the team, improving everyone's performance.

The size and intimacy of a basketball court and team ensures that teamwork, while critical in every other professional sport, plays a much more important role here. Basketball is unique in that, conceivably, one player could score all the points for his team without interacting very much with other players. But, without an effective and close knit group working together, one player cannot win a game. The Patriots, for example, still have a whole slew of talent even if Moss is not playing. They don't need him to be in every game, because for many of the games they didn't use him, and still won. In the end, even Moss was not enough of a factor by himself to turn the Postseason into a success. But for the Celtics, much of the success they have enjoyed this year has come not only from the incredible talent that Garnett brings to the court, but also his professionalism and team spirit. He is the ultimate example of how a skilled player should work with a team, even if it's a new team for him. Without Garnett, the Celtics would have been just another mediocre team at best. With him, they are the best that Boston has had for a while, and has brought back a little of the old-time Celtic fame. We owe it all to Garnett.

SPORTS

Girls' Basketball Impressive

By RENÉ REYES, II
STAFF WRITER

Anything that is associated with basketball at the Latin School directly correlates with the boys' team. Lately, the girls' team has been flying under the radar, but is now starting to generate noise and excitement in the hallways. This seems to get the adrenaline and energy pumping in the veins of the players, the coaches, and the fans.

This year, the team has endured another roster shakeup due to Coach Roberts's decisions accompanied by a less-than-stellar record. However, although their team record doesn't show it, the girls have improved a lot from last year and have gotten stronger at every position. Each center, each forward and each guard is aware of her responsibilities and knows how to get the job done. The guards, especially, have come a long way and exceeded everyone's expectations. "A position that has really stuck out to me during the games is the guard position because they have done a great job running the team and continuing to do what is needed from them," says Tonia Speicher (III), a fanatic

follower of the girls' team. Their play has been very consistent and is one of the big reasons why the team believes that they're better than last year's team.

The point guard position in basketball is often thought of as a second coach on the court, the "quarterback" or the floor general. They initiate the offense and are the first line of defense when the opponent comes up the floor. The first thought of each guard should not be scoring, but being an excellent passer and getting the ball to her teammates for easy shots. They are also the team leaders on the floor and must be willing to work harder than anyone else in practice so as to "lead by example." All of these attributes couldn't be better expressed than in the form of starting point guard Michelle Ventura (III). According to Coach Roberts, "Michelle has worked very hard on her ball-handling skills and free throws, has stepped up as a leader, is running the offense the way it's supposed to be run, and she brings a great amount of positive energy to the team when she is on the floor." Whether Michelle Ventura is feeding the ball to Christine Kelley (I) or Kay Smith (II) for easy lay-ups or hitting

the pull-up jumper, the team knows it's in good hands when she has the ball.

The shooting guard in basketball is usually the team's best shooter, a good ball-handler, a player with the ability to penetrate into the lane and finish, which is why this position is played by the two captains of the team, Jenny Stone (I) and Kasey Preskenis (I). These two players do absolutely everything that a guard can possibly do, from Jenny Stone knocking down three pointers and dishing out assists, to Kasey Preskenis grabbing down rebounds and getting tough points in the paint. "Jenny has been a prolific scorer all year and has done a good job of adding more to her game since most teams are starting to focus more on her, while Kasey has been consistent all year; but to elaborate more on her meaning to the team: as she goes, the team goes," says Coach Roberts about her two other guards. After this season, current and new players will have to fill the "big shoes" that will be left by the seniors who are graduating this year. Noah Shapiro (II), team manager, says, "With the play of the guards, they deserve to win every game of the season; they're unbelievable!"

Spotlight Vinh Truong



By SAMANTHA DEMEZIEUX, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you were to find yourself at a Boston Latin School boys' swim meet this season, chances are you would see two things. First, you would see a large group of young men cheering each other on, and second, you would see Vinh Truong shamelessly sporting a speedo. Vinh, who has been swimming for four years, is one of three captains on the team. He takes great pride in wearing his speedo because it streamlines his body, and intimidates other swimmers. Last season, Vinh and a few other All-Stars helped the Wolfpack cruise to a 10-5 record, the best the team had held in a number of years. As a senior, Vinh has excelled in both the 50 and 100-yard freestyle, ranking 13th overall in the DCL championship meet.

Swimming has been a long standing tradition in the Truong family; Vinh's older brother Minh swam for Latin Academy and graduated in '05, and his younger brother An goes to Latin School and contributed to the team when he was an eighth grader. Although Vinh did not start swimming for BLS until the ninth grade, he was a standout on the Flaherty Dolphins in Roslindale for a few years. When not at the Murphy Pool in Dorchester, he can be found watching tapes of Olympic swimmers, or he can be spotted swimming at the Draper in West Roxbury. Vinh is a true leader in and out of the pool and is a great inspiration to his younger teammates.

Vinh can best be described as a Renaissance man, because he truly does it all. Those of us who know him more personally know that he is a skilled magician and a comedian. From card tricks to tricks involving his class ring, there is no shortage of entertainment from Vinh. He took up the task of learning new tricks in order to impress people (mostly girls), and from what I have seen, it works. He also has a keen sense of humor and can spontaneously blurt out a funny joke. Outside of school, he likes to play the guitar and video games, and will challenge anyone at *Guitar Hero*. Although to some he seems to be a shy, quiet kid, Vinh knows how to have a good time and make everyone laugh, and he is sure to brighten any room that he walks into.

Vinh takes great pride in his work ethic; in the off-season, he can be found lifting weights every other day at the YMCA. Many even thought that Vinh would be a shoo-in for the "Best Body" superlative, but unfortunately he did not claim the title. Unfazed by this, Vinh wishes to continue towards his goal of benching 250 lbs. and gaining acceptance to one of his top college choices. Next year, he hopes to attend Clark University; if accepted, he is strongly considering continuing his swimming career. Though he has not decided what his major will be, a hard-working man of many talents such as Vinh is sure to succeed in any field. To sum it up, Vinh is a funny, caring guy who is a great friend and athlete. And yes, ladies, he's single.

Grant, Track is Stepping It Up

By RENÉ REYES, II
STAFF WRITER

When walking through the hallways of Boston Latin School after hours, one can see an all-too-familiar sight. One can witness the phenomenon, known as the track team, jogging and sprinting in preparation for the upcoming season. Can you imagine what it takes to run through the corridors of Latin School, up and down three flights of stairs or in the grueling weather of the winter months every day? These hours of practice, however, are not only about hard work, but also fun. Track members can be seen working hard, laughing, talking and joking around while getting ready for a new indoor season. These are the signs of a group of friends becoming more than a team. In effect, they are becoming a big family whose one goal is to bring even more recognition to the Latin School and to the track team by having a successful season.

Looking back at last season, the track team did well with several members

qualifying for states. The sprinters and long distance runners had a very consistent season and did well at their meets. Claire Ruff (II) said, "We had a good season last year with everyone getting a lot of

cially the ones who joined after doing cross country in the fall who will help us during the season." The joining of cross country stars such as Isara Kreiger (I), Erin Scannell (I), Angiolina Franceschelli (I), Marcella Sifnugel (II) and Claire Ruff (II) brings more experience and talent to a squad already full of great runners including Andrew DeStefano (I), Calvin Atkinson (I), Peter Rice (I), Marvell Lahens (II), Conrad Ennis (II), Kerri Costello (II) and Don Vu (II).

The brightest spots of this year's team are the sophomore stars Olivia Grant and Meesha Brooks. Grant was published in *The Boston Herald* for her victory in 55-meter dash at the freshman-sophomore meet. Her impressive win included a blistering 7.48 seconds over that distance, a time difficult for any age group. In a distant second came Pebbles Banks of Newton South with 7.66 seconds. "My team was so supportive today, and I implemented everything my coach said. I couldn't have done it without them," Grant told a *Herald* reporter. She continued to say that "I wasn't the first one out of the blocks, but I got a good start. There's a lot of room for improvement." This incredible finish is the highlight of the season thus far.

The Boston Latin School track team members work very hard at everything they do, and with all that dedication and motivation, they will certainly impress everyone. The runners love every minute of what they do (sometimes) and are proud to wear the purple and white. They all firmly believe that this season will be one to remember. "We are determined to have a great season and our goal is to ALL qualify for states!" Mareella Sifnugel (II) exclaimed. With that type of attitude and confidence, there is no doubt that the track team will definitely be a force to be reckoned with.



LATIN TEAM GIVES FULL EFFORT AND FINISHES STRONG

new personal records." This year, the team lost many seniors due to graduation, but made up for that void with the addition of new runners. With these new runners and the same young veterans from last year, expect the track team to have another great season.

The goal of indoor track is not only to be successful and improve from last year, but also to get as many students on the team as possible. The expectations were immediately set high when many students decided to try out for this up-and-coming sport. Mateusz Turolski (II), a newcomer to indoor track and a varsity defender for the school soccer team, said, "There is a lot of enthusiasm for this year and there are lots of people who joined track, espe-



RICE GOES HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH NEWTON SOUTH OPPONENT.



Boston Latin School Sports

BLS Varsity Sports

Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball
Boys' Hockey
Girls' Hockey

Boys' Indoor Track
Girls' Indoor Track
Wrestling
Boys' Swimming

Boys' Hockey Striving for Strong Finish

By LAUREN ANDERSON, II
STAFF WRITER

With a dismal record of 3-9-2, you would think that the boy's hockey team is having a very disappointing season. If you were to watch one of their games, however, you would see that the losing record does not reflect the hard-working and determined attitude of the team.

Watching the games, it's obvious that these boys are just as talented and have more heart than the other teams but they are not taking advantage of all the opportunities they are given. Instead of taking shots, they hold onto the puck and miss chances to score. They are also undersized compared to their opponents. In listening to the talk outside of the locker room after the Wolfpack had just suffered a six-point loss in the first game of their Christmas Tournament against the Saint Mary's Spartans, the parent of one of the opposing team's players said, "Those Latin boys were way smaller than us, we really outmatched them."

Upon seeing the Wolfpack exiting the locker room after a crushing defeat, no one would be able to tell the team had just endured yet another several five-point losses. According to junior forward Brian Glora, "We have been working really hard this season and we have been creating opportunities, which we had not been able to create before, but we still need to capitalize on our chances more than we have been." The team knows that they are down, but they also know that they are certainly not out. At the start of the season the boys had very high hopes. They were predicting over a .500 season but right now they stand at just .214. Just looking at their win percentage conveys a false impression of the team. Recently, they had a two-game streak without a loss, which may seem like nothing to many, but it represents a glimmer of hope that

this season is still salvageable.

"We have begun to come together as a team this season, and although it may not show in our record we all know that we are working our behinds off," says junior defenseman Evan Picariello. The

team needs twenty points: they have eight so far. They know what needs to be done, however, and are well-prepared to do so.

According to junior forward and team captain, Ryan Byrne, things are looking up for the Wolfpack: "We are not exactly where we want to be, but we are playing better as a team. We plan to fight hard and finish strong." These boys are aware that they may not make it to the playoffs. They need to win every game in order to qualify; however, they do not feel as if this season has been wasted. They know that there is always next season, and for many on the team that is all there is left.



RYAN BYRNES (12) CHASES DOWN THE PUCK VS WESTON

attitude expressed by Picariello seems to be the universal spirit of the team. In order to make it to the playoffs, the

Giants Put History, Perfection On Hold

By PAUL BRIDEAU, I
SPORTS EDITOR

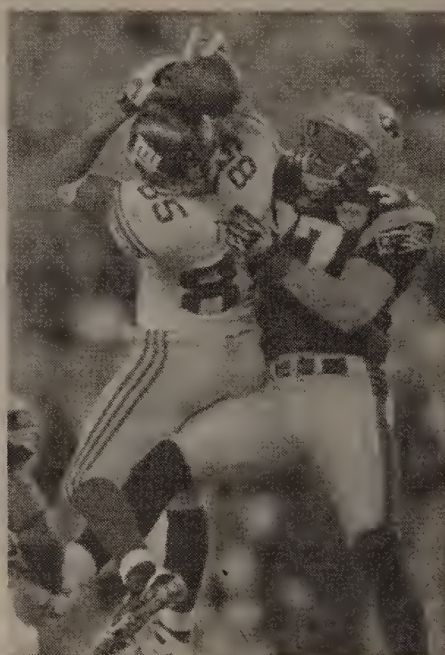
We've had time to mourn and it is almost time to move on. The period of time in which ESPN spoke daily about the Super Bowl in some context has already passed. We can now return to our television sets with a very minimal fear that some analyst will mention the happenings of February 3, 2008 causing us to cringe slightly, while keeping in mind that NFL Live is still off limits for, at the very least, two months. Our favorite personalities on WEEI are attempting to change the topic in talking about the Red Sox or Celtics, yet still not desperate enough to speak of the lonely Bruins. And our own Mr. Harper seems to be finally getting over the first New York championship in any sport during the past eight years as he reluctantly comes to the realization that Boston has five.

However, the pain still lingers and it has become a season we will never forget for the wrong reasons. Instead of perfection, we have the senseless continuation of Spygate, the second Manning comeback to end a Patriot's season in as many years, the biggest choke in NFL history, and that big-mouth dope Mercury "Poisoning" Morris still gloating about us not

"being on his block." It's simply a shame that all of this could've been so easily avoided on so many occasions.

With the Giants winning by three points, the ultimate coaching mistake was in plain view. All eyes focused back upon that foolish and rash decision of going for a 4th and 13 within field goal range. Simply put, the Patriots were fortunate to have even had that opportunity when taking into account the play of the Giants defensive line. Belichick exhibited some rare emotion in play calling as he went for it entirely to spite Stephen Gostkowski whose kickoff went out of bounds the prior drive. No other explanation can supply sufficient reasoning to why such a genius in the coaching world would fall into a trap typical of an inexperienced coach. His frustration with a second year kicker took over that play and was a key reason to why the Patriots lost.

Furthermore, Jason Tuck, Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora put pressure on Tom Brady whenever the situation called for it. Whether they blitzed or only rushed three linemen you could be sure that Brady usually had less than four seconds to throw the ball, a dilemma that only one solution could stall. Running a no-huddle two-minute drill type offense should have been the Patriot's main objective coming out of locker room at half time. However, such an offensive attack was implemented too late on



DAVID TYREE'S CIRCUS CATCH SAVED THE GIANTS

the touchdown scoring drive putting the Pat's on top with just under three minutes to go.

Beyond the typical coaching criticisms and missed penalty calls that tend to even out, the Giants simply outplayed the Patriots in a big way. They wanted the game more, and they stole it, just as the

2001 Patriots did in Super Bowl XXXVI. This was best illustrated through the catch by David Tyree, a play that will go down in Super Bowl lore. Though Eli Manning's great escape may have been aided by a few uncalled holds, the catch itself is deserving of the Lombardi trophy. Rodney Harrison stood no chance against the godlike will of David Tyree.

In the aftermath of this sporting disaster, there is no hope on the horizon; not a Boston sporting accomplishment in the world that could compensate for such a dismal experience. You may believe that this memory will fade in the coming years as the Patriots win the next two of three Super Bowls, but such a loss cannot be forgotten. Immortality was just moments away, eternal recognition knocking on the door, but dissipated into "A Big Bucket of Fail" as put by Charles Pierce.

What could have been the best team in NFL history on so many levels will now just sit in the back of our minds and collect dust coming to life every time the Patriots name is mentioned. The Dynasty can never feel the same again. Even if the Patriots were to go undefeated next year, such a culmination of major records being broken would likely not reoccur. But hey, since when has anything on the Boston sports scene been perfect?

Upcoming Schedule

Girls Basketball

Sat. 2/16 vs. Westford Academy 6:00 pm

Boys Basketball

Fri. 2/15 @ Westford Academy 5:30 pm

Girls Hockey

Sat. 2/16 Arlington Catholic (@Arlington Rink) 6:00 pm

Mon. 2/18 Fontbonne Academy (@Shea Rink-Quincy) 4:00 pm

Boys Hockey

Sat. 2/16 Lincoln Sudbury (@NESC) 8:00 pm

Mon. 2/18 Brookline (@Walter Brown) 5:00 pm

Indoor Track

Sun. 2/17 MIAA Div. Championships
Fri. 2/22 MIAA Auerbach All State Meet

Wrestling

Sat. 2/16 States